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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 8 APRIL 21, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Don't Fear the Webmaster

■ Students at Valley College have many websites at their disposal that can make campus life a lot easier.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
NEWS EDITOR

From help on papers and class schedules to movie showtimes and political activism, the Valley virtual community has plenty to offer.

The campus' homepage, www.lavc.edu, includes access to class schedules and links to several helpful programs and departments, such as the Transfer Alliance Program, the Associated Student Union, Service Learning Program, Learning Center, Extended Opportunity Program, Financial Aid, Puente Program and the Career/Transfer Center.

"The LAVC website contains 1,800 pages of information covering all aspects of the college, including specific information for students, faculty and staff and the community," said lavc.edu webmaster Jack Sterk. "More and more important information is being moved to the Internet."

"For example, beginning with summer 2004, Valley will no longer be sending out priority registration appointments. Students can get those online. Last year, 20 percent of Valley students used the site to … enroll in classes."

In the Student Resources section of Valley's website, the Student Information System, an LACCD link, allows enrollees to add and drop classes, check grades and download transcripts. Valley's homepage also

please see *Websites* page 7

ASU Elections Continue Today

■ Twenty candidates vie for eleven posts; student body largely ignores candidates' forum.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Most of the candidates in the Associated Student Union election took to the stage in Monarch Square Monday in hopes of generating more votes before the end of today's polling.

Just more than 30 people showed up at Monday's rally with those running making up half the crowd. Several candidates did not attend for unspecified reasons.

Running for president are the reform-minded Levon Bagramian and council veteran Igor Kagan. In Bagramian's official statement, he wrote that he would make changing the tutoring and counseling systems his top priority.

"I believe counseling and tutoring should be proactive,"

please see *ASU* page 7

The Ghosts of Holocausts Past

■ Separate commemorations mark atrocitities, work to keep memories alive.

SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

NOT FORGOTTEN - Like giant tombstones, these 18-foot monuments honor the millions lost in the Holocaust of World War II. For additional photos, please see **GALLERY** Page 10.

Los Angeles Hosts State's Largest Holocaust Rememberance Ceremony

BY NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITER

Six black triangular columns towered above the crowd in Pan Pacific Park Sunday. The 18-foot high monuments represented the smoke stacks of the infamous Nazi crematoria, key parts of the machinery in which 6 million Jewish people were murdered.

"The crimes against the Jewish people are also crimes against the humanity of the world," said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Too many times the world has been stained for hatred and prejudice."

More than 2,500 people commemorated the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Holocaust in Hungary, a piercing reminder of the millions of Jews murdered during the Nazi invasion between 1933 and 1945.

Joining Schwarzenegger were Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and featured guest speaker, Congressman Tom Lantos, who was born in Hungary and worked in the anti-Nazi underground there. Lantos is the only Holocaust survivor to ever be elected to congress.

"We have to be aware that this [atrocity] or anything similar should never happen again," said Holocaust survivor Joseph Reisel.

Families with young children came to learn of the tragedy. The event had a musical bent as the crowd sang along with such songs as "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem.

"It is a tragedy which is unpardonable and unforgettable," said Laszlo Kovacs, foreign minister of Hungary. "Now what we have to do is to make the younger generation understand what it meant."

The black columns in the park stood in a circle on a floor painted red to suggest the blood of the dead. Under the shadow of these structures was a concrete memorial wall built with barbed wire to represent a concentration camp.

"History does repeat itself," CSUN freshman Amy Silver said as she read the inscription on the wall. "I believe it's a clear message [that] any anti-Semitism or injustice to any nation or race cannot be tolerated."

The Genocide You May Not Know About

■ Trustees pass resolution to honor Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

BY KRISTEN PRESCOTT
STAFF WRITER

Adolph Hitler, while attempting to convince his colleagues that a Jewish Holocaust would be tolerated by the West said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Valley College will commemorate the Armenian Genocide with a display case filled with posters, pictures and information pertaining to the slaughter of millions of Armenians during World War I.

The city of Glendale kicked off its annual Week of Remembrance on Monday, which commemorates victims of all genocides. Events planned for the week include an art exhibit, a blood drive, a formal program and a candlelight vigil at the Glendale Civic Auditorium on April 24.

please see *Genocide* page 6

VALLEY PEOPLE

Softball "Sisters" Are the Heart of the Lineup

■ Arreguin and Velasquez anchor Lady Monarchs' batting order, team.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

WE ARE FAMILY - Alexandra Velasquez, left, and Lorena Arreguin, right, two of Valley's best softball players, make the game a family affair.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Lorena Arreguin and Alexandra Velasquez laugh constantly, as if every other comment sits atop a private joke that they would let you in on if they could just stop laughing long enough.

When it comes to softball, though, the two are deadly serious. Before Friday's scheduled practice, Arreguin even asked their coach to come early for extra hitting. "We're pretty much here sunup to sundown," says Arreguin, "all year long."

When asked what they do for leisure off the field, they're both at a loss until Arreguin says without a hint of irony, "I like to go to the batting cage."

They call themselves sisters, but looking at the fair-skinned and solidly built Arreguin and the dark-complected, statuesque Velasquez, you'd never guess it. And then there's their differing last names. When Velasquez, first baseman of the Valley College softball team, is asked to define her relationship with her 'sister,' the Lady Monarchs' catcher, she laughs out loud.

"I'm married to Raymond Hernandez," she explains.

Oh.

Hernandez is Arreguin's brother, making the heart of the Monarch lineup sisters-in-law – although Velasquez says even that is deceptive. "[Lorena is] my little sister," she says. "We're very close."

Velasquez, 25, and Arreguin, 19, are as close as it gets in the batting order, filling the number three and four

please see *Sisters* page 8

FOCUS ON HEALTH

America's Driving Force

■ Millions depend on caffeine's boost without realizing that it is a drug.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Eight types of energy drinks and packets of No-Doz are available at the Valley College bookstore. Red Bull "vitalizes the body and mind," and Sobe's No Fear energy drink is made with "power components;" both are in the cooler closest to the door with the other six "energy supplements." Americans are overworked, with typical schedules often spanning from daybreak to long past sunset, providing a healthy market for all the caffeine-infused products.

"We are awake about two hours more than people [were] 100 years ago," said Ron Mossler, Valley psychology department chair. "To make up for that part of what we do is stimulate ourselves."

A large part of this stimulation derives from caffeinated substances such as coffee, tea, soda, chocolate and energy drinks such as Red Bull. These substances have managed to become an integral part of our lives, from the morning coffee to the soda at the movies. Caffeine can also be found in pain relievers and diet pills.

"I have two cases of soda in my [room]," Valley student Jerome Martinez said. Although he doesn't think of caffeine as a drug, he does believe that it's addictive. "Everybody drinks soda, even babies," said Martinez, who has four to six soft drinks each day.

Martinez is not alone. Sodas are consumed at a rate of 56 gallons per person annually in the United States, and the habit often starts early.

An estimated 90 percent of Americans consume some form of caffeine daily, making it the most popular drug in the United States. Caffeine is also the most popular drug in the world.

Yet it is not widely viewed as a drug, nor are many people aware that it is medically recognized as an addictive substance. Caffeine works in the same way as nicotine, amphetamines, cocaine and heroin, only milder.

The stimulation is caused when receptors that would normally receive the nucleoside adenosine are loaded with caffeine.

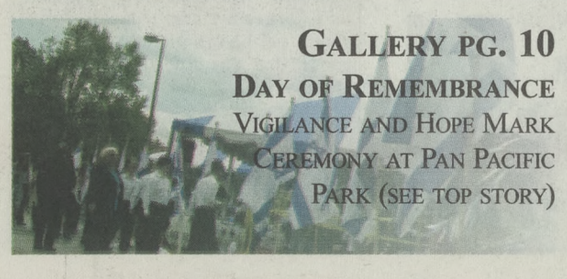
While adenosine would normally release hormones that signal the body to rest, caffeine works to speed up activity and constricts blood vessels by inhibiting adenosine's ability to open them.

The increased neuron-firing from the stimulated cells in the central nervous system causes the release of adrenaline. One's heart rate increases, blood pressure rises, pupils dilate and blood flow to the stomach is slowed while blood to the muscles is increased and extra sugar is released from the liver, creating caffeine's energy boost.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

COKE FIEND - Coffee, chocolate and soda account for billions of dollars in sales annually.

please see *Caffeine* page 6



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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
VIGILANCE AND HOPE MARK CEREMONY AT PAN PACIFIC PARK (SEE TOP STORY)

VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
AWARD-WINNING GUITARIST DIMITRI ILLARIONOV PLAYS VALLEY COLLEGE

OPINION PG. 3
DRAFT PICKS
FREEDOM ISN'T FREE, BUT JINGOISTIC RHETORIC MOST CERTAINLY IS

SPORTS PG. 8
BOILING POINT
FRUSTRATED BASEBALL TEAM LOSES COMPOSURE, GAME

NEWS REEL

BUSH GIVES U.N. MORE POWER IN IRAQ:
Bush has agreed to give the United Nations a larger role in Iraq and back a plan to name an interim group that will succeed the Governing Council and oversee national elections in 2005.

KERRY BLASTS CHENEY AND ROVE FOR LACK OF MILITARY SERVICE:
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, a decorated Navy combat veteran, accused Vice President Dick Cheney and Karl Rove of avoiding the Vietnam draft, saying they "went out of their way to avoid their chance to serve when they had a chance."

Cheney received student and hardship deferments, while Rove received a student deferment in late 1969.

HAMAS APPOINTS NEW LEADER AFTER ASSASSINATION:
Hamas appointed a new Gaza chief Sunday, but will not release his identity following Israel's assassination of two former Hamas leaders, including Abdel Aziz Rantisi on Saturday.

Hamas posted a statement on its website saying that 100 retaliations will take place in Israel.

CAMPUS EYE

STOMP TRANSFER CONFERENCE AT UCLA:
Students have until Friday, April 23 to sign up for the UCLA Transfer STOMP Conference Friday, April 30, 2004, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ASU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BOARD ELECTIONS:
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 20 & 21, Monarch Square (Call the ASU office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

SENIOR DAY:
Wednesday, April 21, 8 a.m., Monarch Hall

ASU CLUB DAY:
Wednesday, April 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square (Call the ASU office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY:
Wednesday, April 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square (Call the ASU office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

COLLEGE/MAJORS FAIR:
Wednesday, April 21, 11 a.m - 1:30 p.m., Monarch Hall (see bottom for more information).

UC BERKELY ANNUAL VISIT:
Thursday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Career/Transfer Center (see bottom for more information).

ASU INTER CLUB COUNCIL MEETING:
Thursday, April 22, 1 p.m., CC104 (Call the ASU office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

PLANETARIUM SHOW:
Friday, April 23, 8 p.m.
"Crossing the Sun: The Transit of Venus," Planetarium.

PLANETARIUM LECTURE:
Sunday, April 25, 7 p.m., Planetarium.

ASU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, April 27, 12:45 p.m., CC104 (Call the ASU office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

UCLA CLUB DAY:
Wednesday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square. Event includes and information fair and workshops conducted by UCLA instructors (see bottom for more information).

Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126, or call (818) 947-2646 for more information.

Dean Honors Students

■ **Valley's best and brightest get pinned by the president at the Dean's reception.**

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

More than 350 Valley College students, friends and family gathered in Monarch Hall to receive honors for their academic achievements at the Dean's Reception April 15.

Guest speaker Irene Tovar got her AA from Valley in 1960 and has since gone on to become the executive director of the Latin American Civic Association and the administrator of the largest Head Start program in the Valley.

Tovar, whose father's legacy to her was a great education, recalled as though it were yesterday how important her relationships with her teachers at Valley were and encouraged those receiving these honors to get their advanced degrees.

"In effect, what you have done is the most important thing that will affect you for the rest of your life," Tovar said. "Not only have you invested in yourself, the return you will get for that investment is [immeasurable]."

Valley College President Tyree Wieder reminded students to always keep in their hearts that Valley is where they got their start.

"This is something we really look forward to every spring and fall and I would like to congratulate every one of you," said Wieder.

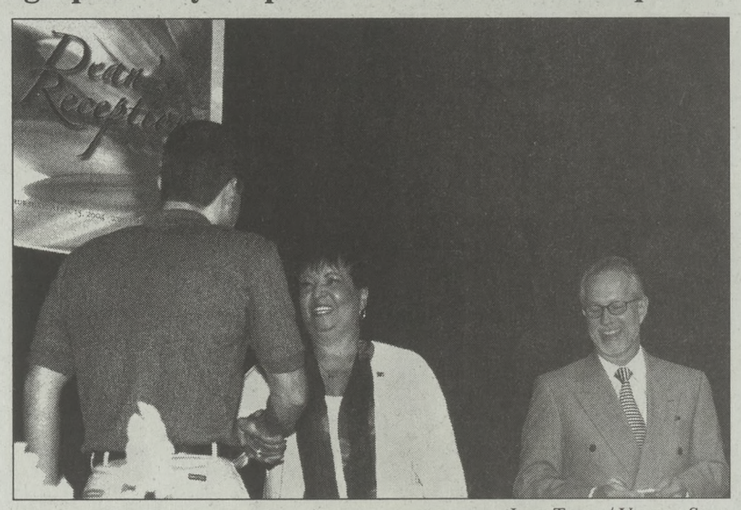
James Brevard, president of the Associated Student Union, received the President's Honor pin for his third consecutive semester.

"You take what you learn and go, but you also have to give back and try to inspire others," Brevard said. "I set my standards high and I try to inspire others as my mentor inspired me. That was one of my goals when I started school, to be a role model, especially to other young black males."

"This is my fourth Presidential honor pin," said student Mark Trachtenberg. "I don't do it for the pin, I just do it for the grade, but it's nice to have."

Trachtenberg's parents, Mona and Ron, praised their

please see *Dean* page 6



LISA TOBIN / VALLEY STAR

DAY OF CELEBRATION - Valley President Tyree Wieder congradulates the recipients of the Dean's list during the Dean's reception March 15.

Health Center Gets A Facelift

■ **Change in service provider leads to key upgrades.**

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

April marks a change of faces and services at the Valley College student health center as Valley Presbyterian Hospital takes over the provision of services for students.

Northridge Hospital (Sherman Way campus) had run the clinic since it opened 10 years ago, but declined to renew its contract with Valley this year, citing financial difficulties, according to Yasmin Delahoussaye, president of student services.

"Northridge Hospital lost $5 million … last year and began closing most of their community clinics as a cost-saving measure," Delahoussaye said. "As a result of the new contract with Valley Presbyterian, we have upgraded the services for students."

The clinic will now have a physician's assistant instead of an R.N. This will allow students to receive prescriptions if n ecessary.

Sonia Nodal, P.A., will be on staff full time along with a medical doctor, who will be available on campus four hours per week.

Nodal's first day on campus included two incidences of students needing emergency care and being rushed to local hospitals. "We're going to be making changes for better health services for students," Nodal said.

The clinic is not only revamping the services, but it's going to get a new look with a fresh coat of paint. Once this is complete, Delahoussaye said she would try to host a reception for students to come over and meet the new staff.

Read this and More Online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

* Online-only features
* Opinion polls
* Forums & chat rooms
* Current movie showtimes
* and the debut of the Valley Star's new literary journalism section, **THE BACK PAGE**

Snickers, Twinkies and Alfalfa Sprouts?

■ **Vending machines could soon be mandated to provide more healthy choices for students.**

BY NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITER

A California bill could require vendors who operate vending machines on state property to have at least 50 percent of food and beverages meet higher nutritional standards.

Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-7th District, a fitness and health advocate, authored SB 74, which will be under consideration by the legislature this year.

The former health and science teacher believes that the bill can help alleviate widespread levels of obesity and diabetes. In addition, Torlakson contends that employees and visitors of state buildings, highway rest stops and state colleges are offered virtually no healthy choices in vending machines.

"It's a college and people should be able to choose whatever they want."
- Lori Carter, Valley Student

"This bill will simply provide healthy choices," said Robert Oakes, the senator's press secretary. "We shouldn't have just all junk food."

In order to be considered "nutritional," vending beverages and snacks will have to meet guidelines as defined by the bill.

Beverages may include milk, 100 percent juices and fruit-based drinks containing no less than 50 percent fruit juice. Foods may include lower-fat (less than 35 percent of total calories from fat) snacks, energy bars, baked chips, fruit and nuts.

"I think it's great," said student Naomi Peries. "I'm a diabetic, so a healthy alternative is a good option."

The snacks are not to have more than 10 percent of their calories from saturated fats and no more than 35 percent of total weight from sugar, according to the bill.

Not all students are happy about the requirements.

"It's a college and people should be able to choose whatever they want," said Business major Lori Carter. "There's a cafeteria to get healthy food."

Organizations in support of the bill include the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy.

Changeover costs and the predicted loss of revenues for certain vendors have created concerns for groups such as the California Automatic Vendor's Council and the Grocery Manufacturers of America. According to a summary released by the Senate Rules Committee, vendors argue that the food and beverages, which they provide, already meet the United States Dietary Guidelines.

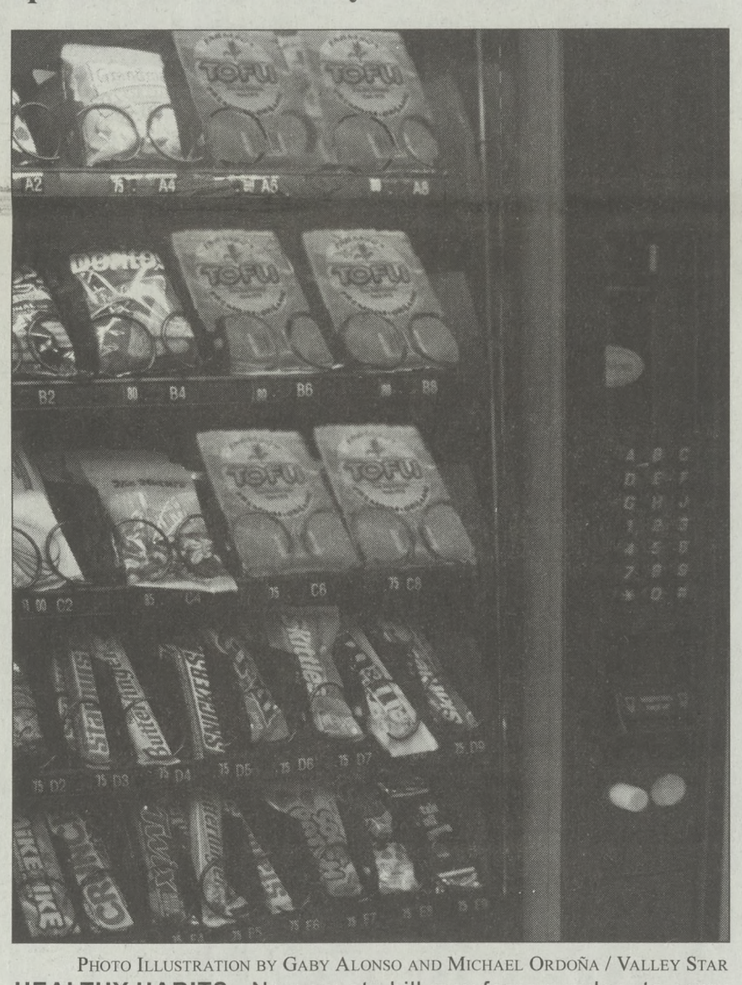


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GABY ALONSO AND MICHAEL ORDOÑA / VALLEY STAR

HEALTHY HABITS - New senate bill may force vendors to carry healthier foods.

CAMPUS CRIME

Car Stolen, Another Vandalized on Campus

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Car Theft

A 1991 Blue Honda Accord was stolen April 17 from Lot D between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

According to the Police there were no witnesses. Anyone with information should contact the Sheriff's Dept.

Car Vandalism

A dispute over a parking spot in Lot A may have led to a students car being vandalized. After returning to her car, she told police that someone had keyed the driver's side of her car and broke the side mirror.

Weapon

Police arrested at 23-year-old male March 30 after witnesses saw him writing on the door of Bungalow 71. When police arrived they recovered a putty knife that appeared to be modified and sharpened to a point from the suspects pocket.

The suspect was booked at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station and charged with possession of a concealed weapon and vandalism.

Vehicle Burglary

A parking permit was stolen from a vehicle in parking lot G March 30.

VOTE
For Your Associated Student Union Representatives
Your Voice on Campus
APRIL 20 - 21
MONARCH SQUARE
9am-1pm & 5pm-7pm

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NEWS EDITOR
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ADVERTISING MANAGER
NANCY KENNEDY

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
www.LAValleyStar.com
(818) 947-2576

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ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **SHOULD THE DRAFT BE REINSTATED?**

■ **Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com***

A Chill in Everyone's Bones

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The movement to reinstate the draft wasn't started by Republicans; it was Democrats.

Hawks who back President Bush's preemptive war policy must be aware that our armed forces are stretched dangerously thin in 14 peacekeeping missions around the globe. But these same flag-waving patriots get curiously silent when the politically combustible subject of the draft is raised.

Perhaps the rich and powerful, who are so happy to send the rest of us into the meat grinder, would think twice if it were their sons and daughters on the front lines.

Our current all-volunteer force is largely peopled with folks motivated by the meager financial benefits, including tuition subsidies, of military service. It also contains a large contingent of immigrants seeking a leg up on citizenship.

What it doesn't have a lot of are super-rich blue bloods and trust fund babies. And it never will, until people from every last corner of society are forced by law to face the realities of defending this country.

Our fighting force in Vietnam was infamous for its extreme racial and socioeconomic imbalance; the rich frequently found ways to beg out of active duty.

That Massachusetts blue blood Sen. John Kerry served with distinction makes him the exception that proves the rule – the rule exemplified by the likes of Vice President Dick Cheney (did not serve due to student deferments followed by a marriage deferment), administration mastermind Karl Rove (student deferments) and President George W. Bush, who served in the "Champagne Division" of the Texas Air National Guard, flying outdated planes that weren't in use in the Vietnam conflict – and then apparently went AWOL for a year of his so-called service. Republican House leader Tom DeLay said in 1999 that there was no room available for him in the military because so many minority youths had used it as a vehicle to escape the ghetto.

Today, there is only one member of congress, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., with a child on active duty in Iraq (six others have children in the service).

That makes a mockery of the moniker "Representative," doesn't it?

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., who introduced the current bill to reinstate the draft, says that if more congresspeople had sons in the military, they might think twice before authorizing war.

Rangel was quoted in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune as saying that "the sons and daughters of the most privileged Americans are underrepresented or absent" from the military.

So if the draft is to be reinstated, let's guarantee citizenship for immigrants who serve honorably. Let's drastically increase related tuition subsidies, veteran salaries and benefits.

And let's close those loopholes that allowed Bush to "work out" with his superiors a transfer from the Champagne Division to his family friend's congressional campaign in Arkansas.

Make the rich serve side-by-side with the poor.

Make everyone in our society painfully aware of the actual price of using military force.

As the slogan for Tom Clancy's "Splinter Cell" video game says, "Freedom isn't free." If we the people have to pay the cost, then so should our leaders.

Let's make this a draft that puts a chill in everyone's bones.

Just Say No to More Troops

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

America, land of the free. Unless, that is, war is declared on a foreign nation (Iraq) for reasons unsupported by the majority (futile search for WMDs) and the military draft is reinstated, sending our families off to die.

Doesn't the 13th Amendment protect citizens from this type of exploitation?

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Doesn't compulsory military duty – the draft – sound like "involuntary servitude" to you?

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-New York, introduced legislation to reinstate the military draft, accusing President Bush and some fellow lawmakers of being too eager to declare war.

He said he introduced the bill "in hopes that those people who make the decisions to go to war, to attack Iraq, would be better influenced against it if they had kids that would be placed in harm's way, or if they felt closer to the shared sacrifice that we oftentimes talk about."

That's brilliant. Hand a warmonger additional troops and ask him to think about the consequences. Bush's agenda does not consider the repercussions yet and does Rangel really think that he will start now?

Not likely.

Besides, haven't the blue-bloods always managed to dodge the draft? Rangel's bill, if approved, would draft men and women from the ages 18 – 26 and college would not be an avoidance route.

Well, rest assured, the well-to-do would find a way to keep their offspring safely tucked away, off the frontlines, serving their country in a much-needed grooming process that could begin their political careers.

Just look at the Vietnam draft.

Former President Bill Clinton dodged the draft, instead going to college in England and participating in anti-war demonstrations. He followed his blatant avoidance with his famous letter to Col. William A. Hawkins, thanking him for "saving me from the draft."

Obviously, Rangel's reasoning for reinstating the draft is flawed.

By the supply-and-demand nature of the draft, draftees are subjected to shortened training and discipline periods and then thrown into frontline combat.

Add the lowered morale due to fighting an ill-conceived, unsupported war and these soldiers may not be equipped with the survival tools necessary to fight effectively.

"I saw firsthand the soldiers that were created out of the draft," said Army veteran Francisco V. Martinez, commander of American Legion Post 791 in San Jose who served 24 years in the infantry, including two tours in Vietnam. "They were reluctant to be involved. Their discipline was not where it should have been."

This country, and more importantly the politicians that run it, have become all-too predictable, lazy and obtuse. With this in mind, a draft now would do nothing more than create the same social climate which existed during the Vietnam Era.

The winds of change are out of breath in this country, leaving us to rely on a government destined to make the same mistake over and again.

The draft is like a gun, you can never assume it's not loaded.

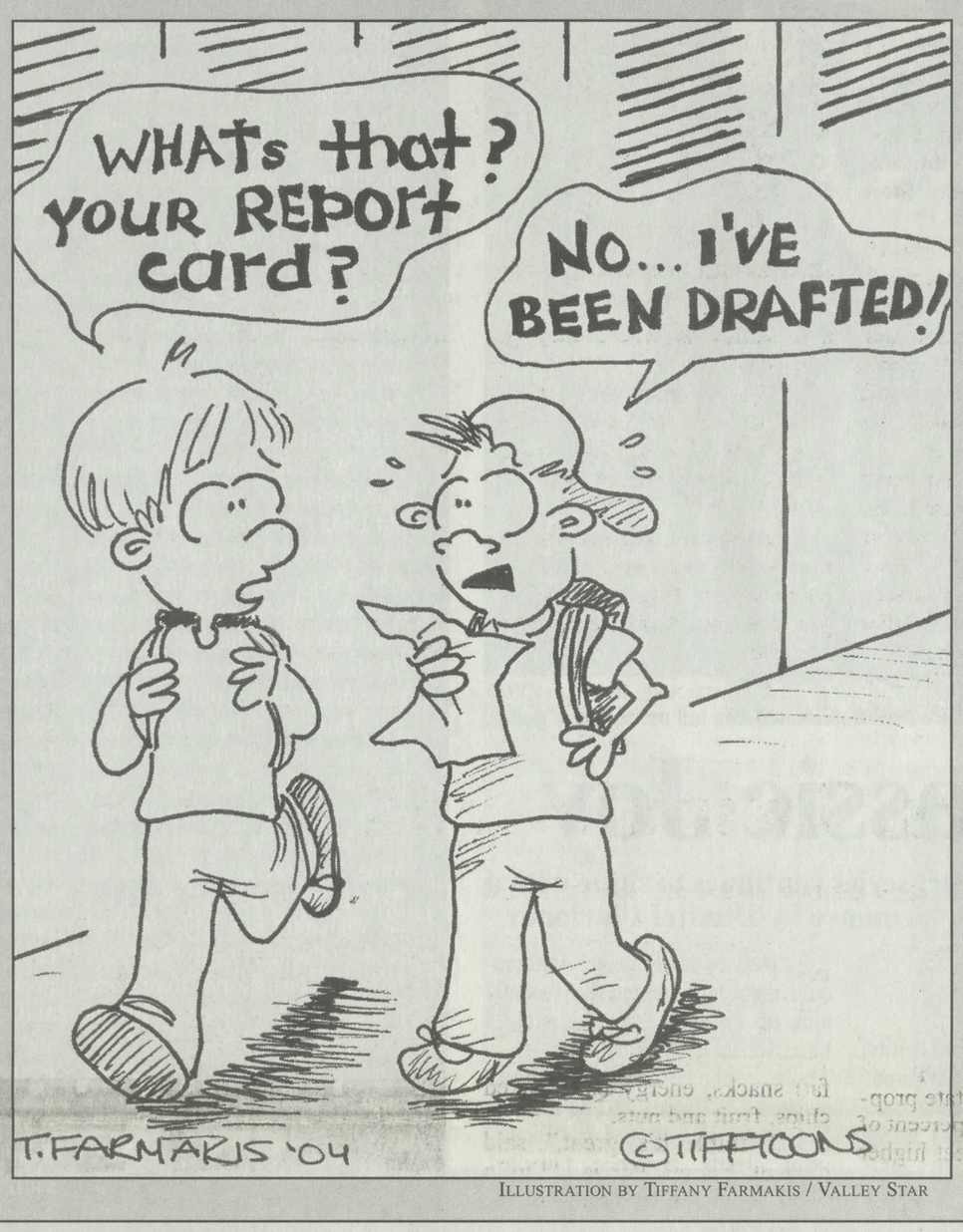
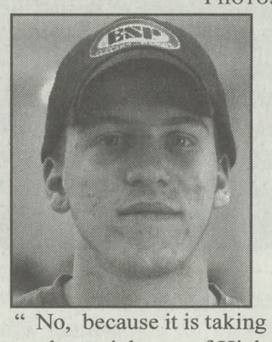


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

CampusView

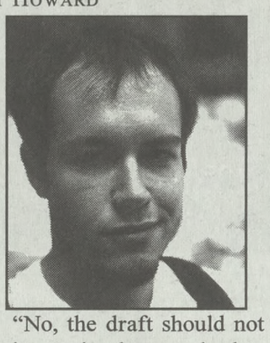
Should the draft be reinstated?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD



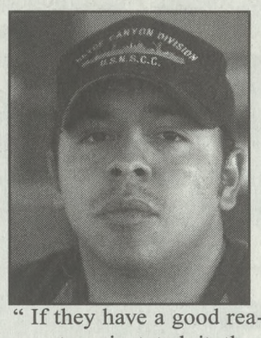
" No, because it is taking students right out of High School and some might not come back and get a chance to go to college."

-Jason Henderson



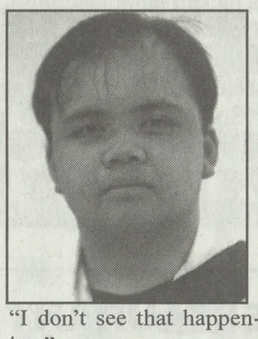
"No, the draft should not be reimplemented because we should have a choice not to fight."

-Francisco De Guzman



" If they have a good reason to reinstated it then I'm up for it."

- Herbert Reyes



"I don't see that happening."

- Luke Jozwiak

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

Happy Easter, Bang Bang

■ **'Tis the season for eggs that hatch guns, forgotten firearms and nice robbers.**

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

There comes a time when a person should take a step back, look around and ponder: What is this world coming to?

Now is that time.

An Easter egg hunt outside an elementary school in Flint, Mich. earlier this month turned up, amongst the coveted colorful prizes, two loaded handguns.

To make the discovery even more chilling, one of the firearms discharged when it was accidentally dropped.

And, according to a police report, it was unclear who dropped it.

My, my, Flint's law enforcement is having trouble getting the facts from a five year old.

It seems that the mishandling of loaded firearms has become an epidemic lately. On April 8, in a restroom located beyond security checkpoints at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport in Ohio, a loaded firearm was found.

A federal air marshal, whose name was withheld for security reasons, went to the restroom and while washing her hands placed the firearm on a shelf, but then forgot to retrieve it afterwards.

Luckily, the passenger who discovered it reported it immediately and it was removed, without being dropped.

Why was the firearm in her hand after leaving the bathroom stall in the first place?

As part of the security measures implemented after Sept. 11, 2001, the United States sends undercover armed air marshals on thousands of flights each week. Didn't she realize that being spotted with the gun in the restroom just might blow her cover?

While law enforcement's negligence is becoming criminal, some criminals are stepping up with safety-conscious ploys.

In Pittsburgh, Penn. a robber gave the crew at a local KFC a heads-up that the crime was going to occur.

On March 31, the man called ahead, posing as a police officer, advising the manager that a robber was in route to the restaurant and that it would be best if the employees cooperated.

No one would get hurt, and the police would nab the robber as he left the store, the caller said.

Within minutes, the robbery occurred and the man escaped with $200.

No police arrived to arrest him.

How thoughtful of him, thinking ahead to curb the employees' urges to risk their lives for their illustrious careers in the fast-food industry.

So it's the authorities and mysterious gun owners who are leaving loaded firearms around for just anyone to find, and it's the robbers who are looking out for our safety.

What *is* this world coming to?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Obesity *Can* Be Someone Else's Fault

Re: "Obesity? Oh Be Serious!" (April 14, 2004)

I have to disagree with [Katharine Anderson's] article in [last week's] Star.

McDonald's is a disgusting corporation that pushes sugar items and fat-filled burgers — mainly onto children. Personal responsibility is hardly a factor when it comes to our nation's youth. Take the tobacco industry. They posted huge billboards in the '60s and '70s and made TV commercials galore, all predominately marketed to youth. The promotion was relentless. They didn't just place cigarettes on the store shelves and wait for people to buy them. Alas, legislation passed and you don't see too many Joe Camel billboards around anymore, do you?

I'm glad to see the tobacco industry sued and losing.

McDonald's Corp. has to bear some responsibility for its relentless marketing strategy as well. This Real Life Choices program is a bunch of garbage. If they really wanted to do something about obesity, they could easily put healthier items on their menu so patrons would actually have a choice. Addiction is alive and well in our nation, and while I'm not solely blaming the billion-dollar advertising industry and its clientele, it is a fact that advertising is remarkably effective, and there are victims.

KATHRYN CARPENTER
FINE ARTS MAJOR

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

... So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

Take Back Our Courts

Re: "One Way or Another: Gay Marriage" (March 3, 2004)

Democracy depends upon participation by the people.

But why bother to vote, why respect the law, why support the government when our votes, our laws and the basic principles of our government are overturned by activist judges?

Now the gay marriage issue is "tied up in court" until after the next election. The same has happened with the ban on partial-birth abortions and taking "God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance.

So, you don't care about these issues?

You should be concerned that legislation by Congress, the will of voters and the Constitution mean nothing to these activist judges.

We cannot directly remove them from power, but we can defeat the politicians who nominated and confirmed them.

Let's defend our democracy by voting for candidates who will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

RESPECTFULLY,
MICHAEL FRANCIS MCCARTHY
VALLEY STAR READER

VALLEY LIFE

VLEPETER@HOTMAIL.COM

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

No Events Scheduled

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Ansangen Woodwind Quintet.
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

David Bowie
Greek Theater
7:30 p.m.
$31-96.00

EDITOR'S PICK(AXE): It's so sad to see the great ones lose their fastballs. Exhibit A: The onetime Thin White Duke, whose music for the last 20 years (!!!) has been thin and quite like dookie, is back in yet another, more wan and boring guise. Every year his former fans say, "This is it! He's back!" Face the facts, Timmy. Lassie's gone forever.

Morrissey
The Wiltern LG
Wilshire &
Western
8 p.m.
$50-65.00
(thru the 27th/SOLD OUT)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Medeski Martin and Wood
The Roxy
8 p.m.
$30.00

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

System of a Down
Greek Theater
7:30 p.m.
$45.00

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

No Events Scheduled

MONDAY, APRIL 26

The Distillers
Henry Fonda Theater
6216 Hollywood Blvd.
7 p.m.
$15.50

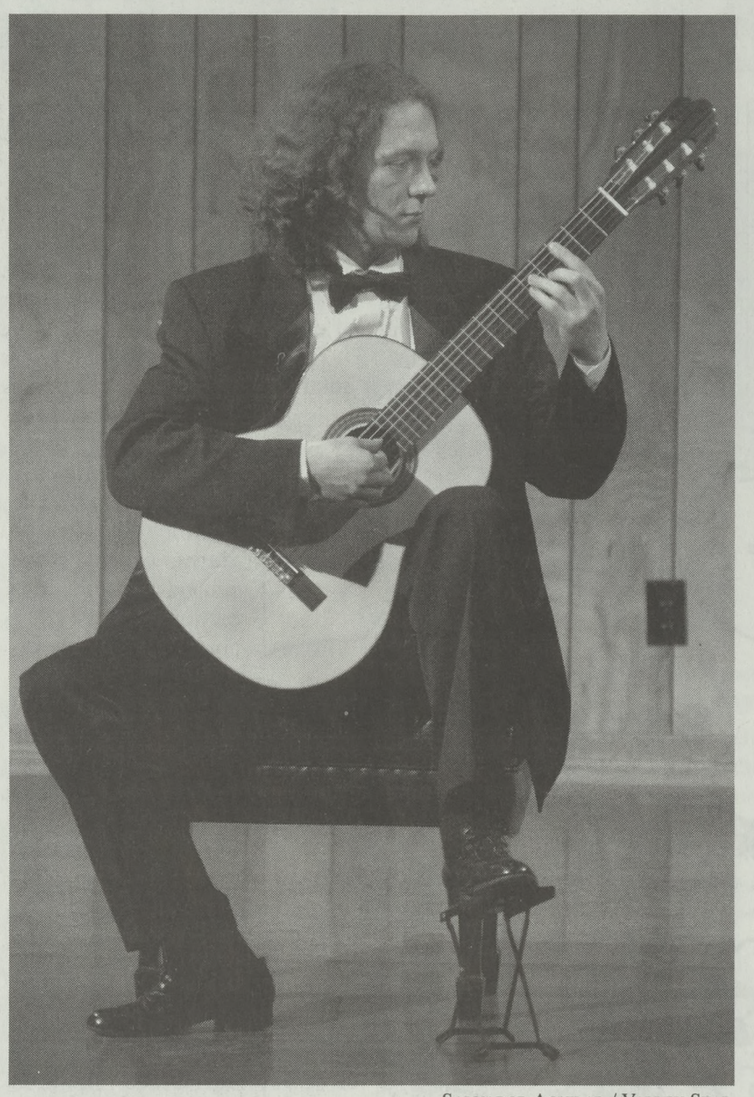
TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Steve Coleman and Five Elements
Alpert Award winner Steve Coleman, one of the most restless and intrepid explorers of the outer limits of jazz, with Five Elements,

"...as they range from the swaggering to the subtle...mapping some of the main lines for this generation's musical growth."- *The Nation*

Roy and Edna Disney/ CalArts Theater at Hope and 2nd Streets in the Walt Disney Concert Hall.
8:30 p.m.
$18.00

VALLEY CONCERTS



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION - Dimitri Illarionov sits tall as he plays guitar.

A Classic Joy

■ The Valley Concert series continues to shine with a classical guitar performance by Dimitri Illarionov

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
NEWS EDITOR

Classical Guitarist Dimitri Illarionov's solo performance delighted the half-capacity audience in Valley College's Music Recital Hall as part of his GFA (Guitar Federation of America) Tour 2003-2004, Thursday.

Illarionov opened with "Grande Overture op.61,"a light tune by Mauro Giuliani, and then picked up the tempo with "Valse op.8 no.3," a piece by Agustin Barrios Mangore.

"He has fantastic fingers," said Solomon Jolly, who plays with the Valley Guitar Ensemble. "[There was a] lot of color in his performance."

"He was really great," said cinema major Juan Juarez, who recently took up classical guitar himself. "I liked Sonata I, II, and III."

Those three Rossen Balkanski sonatas, "Allegro," "Thema con Variationi," and "Allegro con fuoco," were clearly audience favorites, receiving the loudest applause of any of the songs.

The guitarist's body language was also part of his presentation. As he began the uptempo "Allegro," his head bobbed to the beat; the slower "Thema con Variationi" was accompanied by the stomping of his foot.

Illarionov returned for three encores, after which, the audience was still cheering and shouting for more.

Cinematic Activism

■ New Artivist Festival hopes to entertain, inform and motivate with creative new views aurrounded by art, activism and film.

BY NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITER

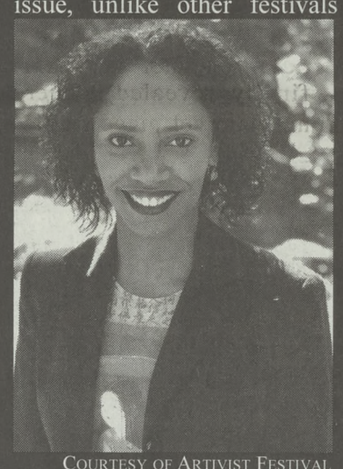
Film Festivals are not just about watching films. They are a chance for the audience to meet with the filmmakers, where producers and directors come to share a few words about their projects and where sometimes deals get made. And sometimes festivals are about more than simple entertainment.

Diaky Diaz, founder of Los Angeles' Artivist Film Festival, wants to promote activism and awareness of global political, social and environmental issues. That's "Artivist" – "Artist" combined with "Activist."

"We all have a global responsibility," said 30-year-old Diaz. "For the students and our younger community especially, because we are the future ... [Novelist] Alice Walker once said, service is the rent you pay for living on this planet. We have not paid that bill."

This is the first Los Angeles festival that is geared toward addressing social, global, political and environmental issues through forms of film, music and art, according to the Artivist website.

"That is why this festival is so unique," said Diaz. "It focuses on more than one issue, unlike other festivals that follow an agenda and push for one particular issue."



COURTESY OF ARTIVIST FESTIVAL

THE FOUNDER - Diaky Diaz prepares for a week of excitement.

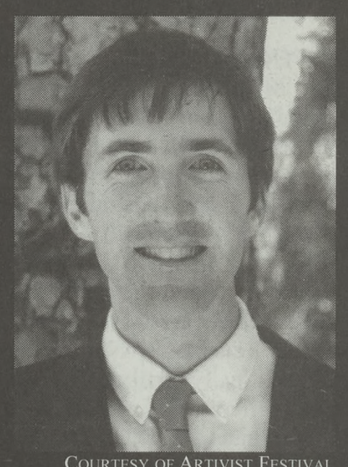
Among the films made available for advance press screening were the humorous anti-Bush shorts, "Homeland Ho Down" and "State of the Union," by Jason Archer and Paul Beck and "Space Available" by Kathilynn Phillips, a chilling 16-minute short in which a pregnant woman must face the consequences of a law mandating that newborns may be allowed to live only if there is sufficient "space available" in their region at the time of their birth.

The festival boasts a talent pool from all over the world. "In a way," Diaz says, "it's like an open platform where any filmmaker who has something important to say can say it."

"I came here [to LA] five years ago to have a career in the entertainment industry," said Diaz, a New York native. "I got frustrated because I wanted to work on projects that would give back to our global society, but unfortunately, in Hollywood, those projects are very few and far between."

Diaz, whose own activism is rooted in being a gay, black Latina, saw the potential of harnessing the communicative power of film in the movie capital of the world to convey positive messages and inform audiences. Toward that end, she teamed up with friends Bettina Wolff and Christopher Riedesel ten months ago to put together a film festival that would feature diverse works with the common thread of a social conscience.

"Sustainable living is something that I'm interested in," said Executive Producer Riedesel. "The way people, especially Americans, are living right now, we're just consuming everything and soon there will be nothing left; one aspect of the festival would be to promote awareness of that."



COURTESY OF ARTIVIST FESTIVAL

THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Christopher Riedesel is on the money.

Eighty films will be shown at the festival, which opens on Earth Day, April 22. Apart from a few well-known titles such as Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning "Gandhi" and Julian Schnabel's "Before Night Falls" (starring Javier Bardem and Johnny Depp), the program includes shorts and unheralded features by new filmmakers. Among these is what is believed to be the local premiere of the highly-touted documentary, "Supersize Me," in which filmmaker Morgan Spurlock demonstrated the destructive effects of fast food by eating exclusively at McDonald's for two months.

The Artivist Film Festival hopes to create a mixture of cutting-edge activism and high-quality art, according to Public Relations Coordinator Susan Mainzer.

"We hope that ... seeing these films will inspire people to become more activism-oriented," said Mainzer.

The First Annual Artivist Film Festival will kick off April 21 with the premiere of the Art Exhibit from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by film screenings beginning Thursday, April 22 - 28 at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood. For ticket information and student rates go to: www.artivistfilmfestival.org or call (310) 712-1222.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Local Flavor Keeps Students Coming

■ Fresh Mexican food near campus offers a lunchtime satisfaction with convienence and affordability for students and faculty.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

Across Burbank Boulevard from Valley College sits one of the more popular off-campus student lunch destinations, Sharky's Fresh Mexican Grill.

The restaurant isn't big, but its size makes one feel comfortable. It tends to fill up during lunchtime everyday, when it gets ridiculously crowded inside and the tables and chairs outside are usually not enough for the crowd.

It's quaint looking, with purple and black as its main colors and matching utensils, tables and chairs. They even have a cute mascot known as Sharky, who wears a sombrero and has quite a few things on the menu named after him.

Sharky's has a typical menu for a Mexican eatery chain (think Baja Fresh), but the selection is much better than average. Although their burritos are nearly $6, they're worth it. They're plenty tasty and are sometimes overstuffed with better ingredients than those at Baja Fresh.

Baja Fresh fills the burritos with the basics like cheese, beans, rice and maybe pico de gallo and chicken or steak – too plain if you ask me. You get more in a burrito at Sharky's and extras such as guacamole or sour cream are available for 50 cents more. Sharky's burritos aren't plain at all, and they're even cut nicely in half when served.

Sharky's has a better atmosphere all around than comparable Mexican chains. It's certainly a popular spot for Valley students, attracting a cool and not egotistical-looking crowd. The people at Baja Fresh always seem to be in too much of a hurry and way too stuck up to look at anyone. The service at Sharky's is better too, because their employees are cool and not too busy dealing with picky customers.

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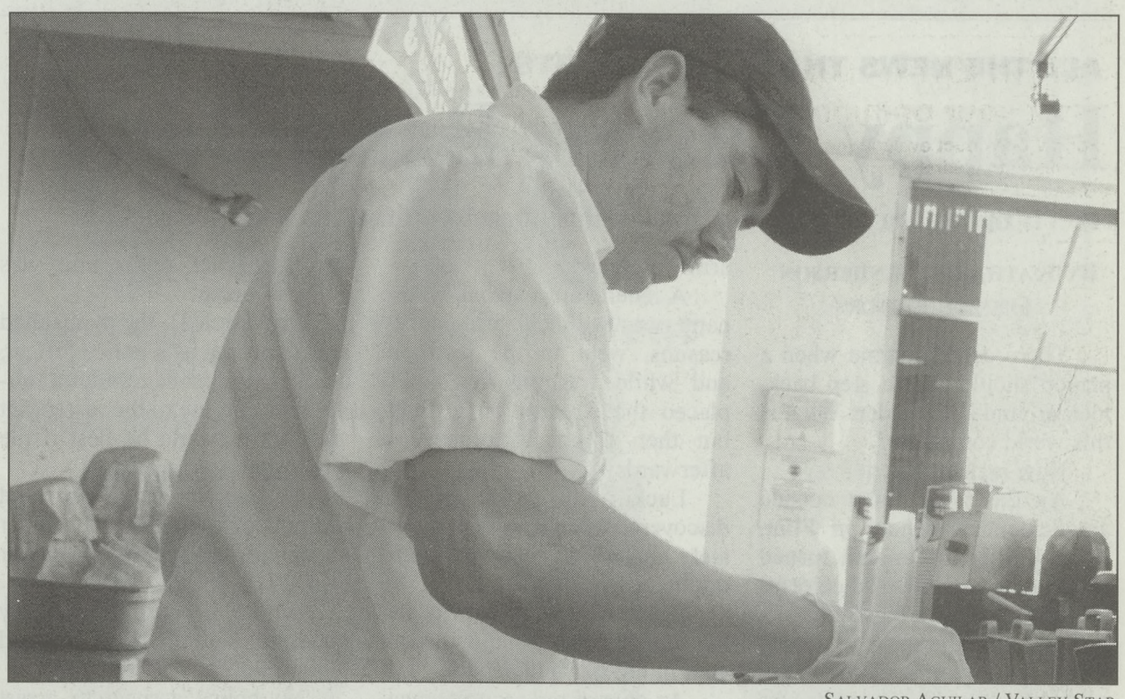
* Current movie showtimes and weather
* and the debut of the Valley Star's new literary journalism section, **THE BACK PAGE**

* Online-only features
* Opinion polls*



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

EATING OUT - Kitchen manager Abram Casares prepares a plate of food. Sharkey's, which is located across the street from campus, offers a variety of Mexican food.

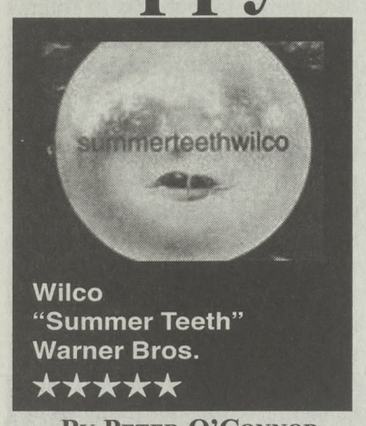
Fight Like a Squirrel

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON

SO DO YOU LIKE MY NEW SHOES... THEY GO WITH MY NEW PURSE!
TIFFTOONS '04
WOULD YOU STOP IT!! WE'RE SUPPOSE TO BE LOOKING FOR INJUSTICE!
I SEE INJUSTICE!
T.FARMAKIS
THAT WOMAN IS WEARING A PERFECTLY GOOD JACKET WITH THOSE TACKY BOOTS!!
OH GEORGIA...? GEORGIA...

UNPOPULAR FAVORITES

Happy Sad Rock



Wilco
"Summer Teeth"
Warner Bros.
★★★★★

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The editors of The Valley Star will occasionally present a review of an overlooked piece of art – an album, a book, a film, etc. – in the hopes of introducing it to a new audience.

Why is it that some of the greatest albums go unheard by many? Is it that there are few people with a good ear or are there too many waiting for the next multi-platinum chart topper? Fortunately, singer/songwriter Jeff Tweedy was willing to throw such commercial concerns to the wind when he left his former Uncle Tupelo project to form the alternative country band Wilco.

Tweedy and company have been making music since 1994 but it was their third album, 1999's "Summer Teeth," that marked a high-water mark for the band. Jovial sounds wound around dark subjects almost leave you feeling good about your drug addiction, ex-girlfriend or drinking problem in the opening tracks.

The first words on "Can't Stand It" set the pace for the album in an upbeat tone: *The way things go / you get so low / struggle to find your skin / hey ho / look out below / your prayers will never be answered again.*

Tweedy shares his harsh life struggles through emotional music that his backup makes worth listening to while, say, cruising down PCH. The sunny day sounds of "A Shot in the Arm" have you smiling with, *The ashtray says / you were up all night / when you went to bed / with your darkest mind / your pillow wept / and covered you eyes / you finally slept / while the sun caught fire, leading to Maybe all I need is a shot in the arm / maybe all I need is a shot in the arm / maybe all I need is a shot in the arm / something in my veins / bloodier than blood.*

Halfway through, the album dives into romantic melodies of love, loneliness and leaving. Chilling lyrics get heartfelt delivery in songs like "How to Fight Loneliness" or "Via Chicago." The acoustic sounds and Tweedy's enchantment start with, *How to fight loneliness / smile all the time / shine your teeth 'til meaningless / sharpen them with lies.*

The next track has affection and compassion towards old anger saying, *I dreamed about killing you again last night / and it felt alright to me / dying on the banks of Embarcadero skies / I sat and watched you bleed / buried you alive in a fireworks display / raining down on me / your cold, hot blood ran away from me / to the sea...Searching for a home / via Chicago.*

A more contented sound informs "My Darling" and "When You Wake Up Feeling Old." Wilco uses the sounds of the baritone, e-bow, tipple and toy harp to enliven the sound leading into the title track, "Summer Teeth," about a man's meaningless dream. *One summer a suicide / another autumn a traveler's guide / he hits the snooze twice before he dies / and every evening when he gets home / to make his supper and eat it alone / his black shirt cries / while his shoes get cold.*

We've all had the saddening dreams that feel like everyday life but the way Wilco lays the track down speaks knowingly of sadness and problems that remain hidden.

Tweedy rounds out the album with a short song "In a Future Age." He says, *Some trees will bend / and some will fall/but then again / so will us all / let's turn our prayers / to outrageous dares / and mark our page / in a future age.*

The lush sounds that came from Summer Teeth received critical acclaim but very few record sales, instigating apprehension with their label, Warner Bros. Their collaboration with UK alter-folkie Billy Bragg of unreleased songs from the late Woody Guthrie only worsened their relationship with the label and led to the band buying their way out of their contract. Their most recent release was the wildly acclaimed and hopeful "Yankee Foxtrot Hotel," the recording sessions of which were the basis of the documentary, "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart."

Wilco is set to release an album early this summer.

FILM CLIPS

A Cut Above

■ **"Kill Bill Vol. 2" finsihes with style.**

Kill Bill Vol. 2
Uma Thurman, David Carradine
Dir. Quentin Tarantino
★★★½

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHEIF

"Kill Bill Vol. 1" had its gory charms, but too often sank under the weight of its own seriousness. What was missing most of all was the voice of its auteur, motormouth hipster Quentin Tarantino, from dialogue that felt slavish in its devotion to the martial arts films that inspired "Kill Bill." Fortunately, "Vol. 2" carries its weight much more gracefully than "Vol. 1," with more wit and better acting.

There's still plenty of homage in Tarantino's homage, but it's a pleasure to see him back on familiar ground. Pop culture references – most notably the director's '70s kung fu movie technique and an extended monologue on the virtues of Superman – help anchor the film.

Although made at the same time as "Vol. 1" it feels less self-conscious, as exemplified by an improved performance from star Uma Thurman as the vengeful former assassin known only as The Bride (no spoiler here, but her real name is finally revealed). There are no giant set piece fights such as the show-stopping Crazy 88s duel in the first chapter, but that only adds to the improved focus of the second half of the epic revenge drama.

Since the film closely follows the pattern of just about any samurai or kung fu flick you've ever seen on late night cable TV, there are few surprises in the plot. Basically, The Bride goes around finding and killing her ex-friends. The twists come in the form of the inevitably ironic fates of the various characters.

The supporting players shamelessly filch their scenes. Most memorable is longtime martial arts hero Gordon Liu embodying every kung fu movie cliché as Thurman's mysterious Chinese master. Liu is more effective – and hilarious – than fellow chop socky icon Sonny Chiba was in his star turn in the previous episode.

Darryl Hannah and Michael Madsen, as former colleagues on The Bride's hit list, turn in their best work in years. Even David Carradine is just fine, although his very appearance in a martial arts film must still send shivers of revulsion up the spines of Bruce Lee fans (the tall Caucasian actor was cast instead of Lee as the Chinese hero of the "Kung Fu" TV series in the '70s).

There's nothing deep about the "Bills," but that shouldn't trouble Tarantino fans who will undoubtedly be sated by a return to form for the man who, for better or worse, made pithy pop culture philosophy safe for Hollywood. "Vol. 2" still has its slow stretches and unearned emotion, but it's more satisfying, more engaging and funnier than "Vol. 1."

Those who do not enjoy hipster irony may wish to seek their entertainment elsewhere. But for winking, clever violence, moviegoers will be hard-pressed to top "Kill Bill Vol. 2" this year.

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* and the debut of the Valley Star's new literary journalism section, **THE BACK PAGE**

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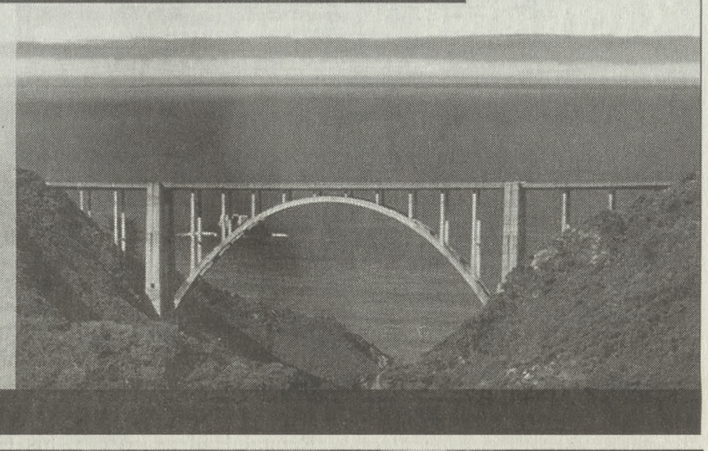

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Symptoms of Alzheimer's May Be Relieved by Common Herbs

■ **New British study says extracts of sage and lemon balm may have positive effects.**

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

Temporary memory loss is just the beginning of Alzheimer's disease. Other symptoms can include extreme personality changes, impairment of decision-making and deterioration of language skills. However, some relief for Alzheimer's sufferers and their loved ones may be available from common herbs.

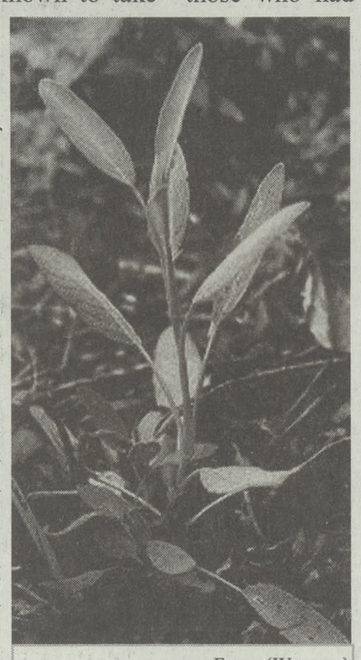
A study from the Medicinal Plant Research Centre at the British Universities of Newcastle and Northumbria suggests that extracts of sage and lemon balm may help to improve memory and behavioral problems in people with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia.

The study, published in the current edition of Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behaviour, provides scientific evidence for claims dating back centuries. Modern researchers studied texts by well-known herbalists such as John Gerard, who in 1597 wrote that sage "is singularly good for the head and brain and quickeneth the nerves and memory," and Nicholas Culpeper, whose 1652 text agrees that the plant "heals the memory, warming and quickening the senses."

People were known to take sage for memory loss centuries ago and drank teas and tinctures containing extracts of the herb, according to www.alzheimersupport.com.

"This research does have serious implications for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease," lead researcher Nicola Tildesley said in an MPRC press release. "It will inform drug research and development."

The MPRC tested 44 young adults between the ages of 18 and 37. Some were given capsules containing sage oil and the others were given placebos. The volunteers then took part in a word recall test to see how many words they could remember. Results showed that those who had taken the sage oil consistently performed better than those who had taken placebos.



FROM (WEBSITE)
PARSLEY, WHAT, ROSEMARY AND THYME? - Researchers believe sage may help memory.

Sage is being investigated as a potential treatment for Alzheimer's after earlier research by the MPRC found that it inhibits an enzyme called acetyl cholinesterase (AChE), which breaks down the chemical messenger acetylcholine.

The most common form of dementia, Alzheimer's affects an estimated 10 million people worldwide and is indicated by a drop in acetylcholine levels.

MPRC scientists believe it may be a combination of chemicals in sage oil that affect AChE. Those oils may also have antioxidant, estrogenic and anti-inflammatory properties, considered beneficial in Alzheimer's therapy, according to the press release.

"Lemon balm reduced agitation and improved quality of life in people with Alzheimer's disease," said Professor Elaine Perry, of the University of Newcastle. "In controlled trials in normal volunteers, both extracts improved memory and lemon balm improved mood."

Perry suggests that there are potential treatments for Alzheimer's. She tested plant species used in traditional and herbal remedies in an attempt to identify the main chemical component. The extracts produced minimal or no side effects in the patients and volunteers.

The MPRC is carrying out another clinical trial testing sage on people with Alzheimer's.

"Extracts of both sage and lemon balm are clearly worth pursuing as potential treatments," said Perry.

'Caffeine'

continued from page 1

Many consider coffee and soda consumption as a habit rather than an addictive behavior.

"You develop a taste for it," said Hector Salazar, stock control assistant in Valley's receiving department. Salazar said he drinks three to six cups of coffee throughout each day, but argued that he's not dependent on the drug. "It stimulates your brain and awakens you. Sometimes you need that perk."

That perk, however, is followed by a "crash," characterized by fatigue, muscle soreness, irritability and headaches due to the dilation of blood vessels and increased blood in the brain after the effects of caffeine wear off. These negative effects, along with the disruption of the sleep-wake cycle caused by the chemical alterations, can lead to repeated use of caffeinated substances to combat crashing, creating an addiction.

Seven or more cups of strong coffee a day can lead to a feeling of anxiousness and irritability, muscle tremors, headaches, and chronic insomnia, all of which will clear up once caffeine intake is reduced. Tolerance to the effects of caffeine develops and a caffeine withdrawal syndrome develops. This well-established syndrome develops after regular use of 300 milligrams of caffeine (two cups of strong brewed coffee, or six cups of tea) according to howstuffworks.com.

Regular use of caffeine may have long-term effects such as chronic insomnia, constant anxiety and depression, and stomach upset.

After stopping caffeine intake the user feels less alert and relaxed, more irritable and drowsy, and suffers from headaches which can be severe. Tiredness and irritability can even be experienced when people miss their morning coffee.

Psychological dependence can develop so that people find it hard to stop drinking their coffee even for medical reasons.

There is evidence that consumption of more than 300 mg of caffeine (about two to three cups of coffee) a day is associated with miscarriages and low birth weight babies.

Because caffeine may remain in the body for long periods, withdrawals are typically felt 24 hours after use is stopped.

"Sometimes it takes a week to two months to come off caffeine," Valley's Mossler said. "People go through withdrawals, most commonly headaches." About 80 percent of people who stop their intake of caffeine go through some kind of withdrawal, Mossler said.

"I'm more likely to be tired if I don't have my coffee," Valley business student Frank Lopez said. "I feel like I need it, like I'm missing something."

Caffeinated beverages such as Coke and coffee are among the most popular in the world. The coffee house chain, Starbucks began in the state of Washington 15 years ago with 17 locations and now has more than 5,000 locations worldwide. Red Bull, which contains 80 milligrams of caffeine per can, experienced similar success. More than one billion cans of red bull are consumed annually in more than 100 countries, according to redbull.com.

Although caffeine is widely consumed, it is not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and companies are not required to list how much caffeine is in their products on packages.

News Editor LaGina Phillips also contributed to this story.

'Genocide'

continued from page 1

An estimated 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Turkish government between 1915 and 1923. It was on April 24, 1915 that the Young Turks, as the party in power was known, arrested and imprisoned more than 200 prominent Armenian community leaders in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) and promptly put most of them to death, according to the Armenian National Institute. On this day, word spread of the government's true intentions. For this reason, the Armenian Genocide is commemorated on April 24.

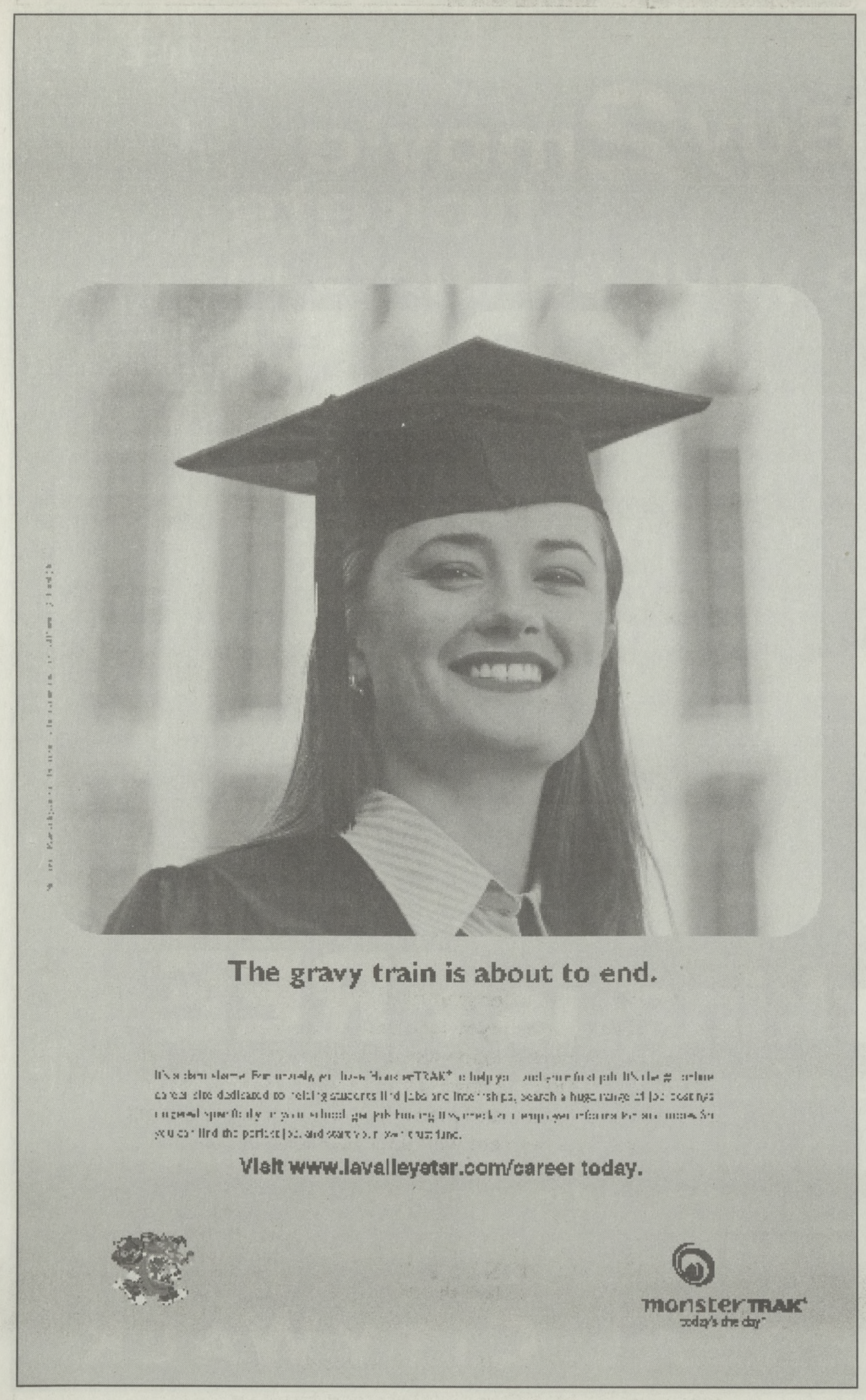
Between the years 1915 and 1918, "the Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre and starvation," according to the ANI.

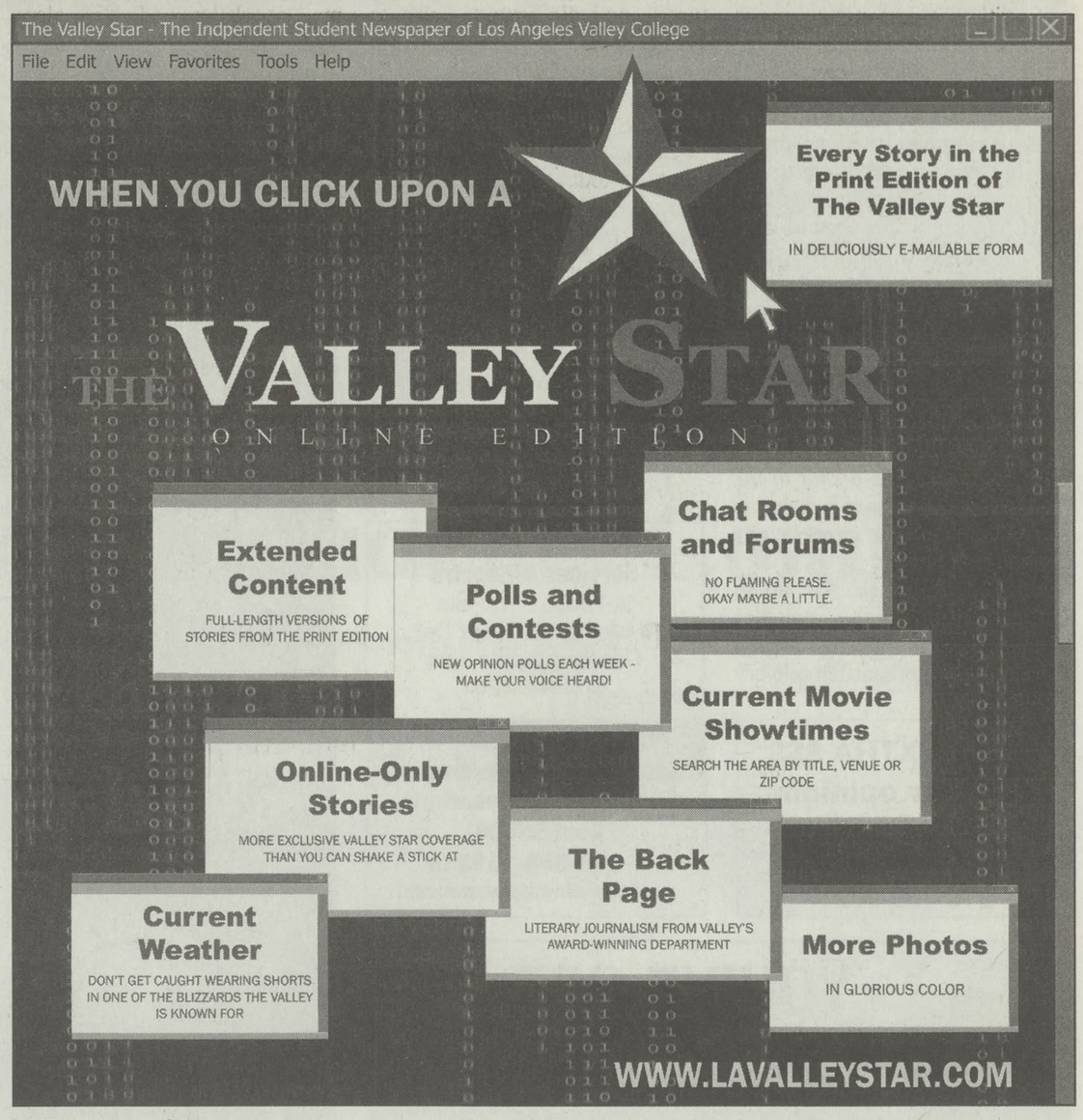
Things started all over again in 1920, little more than a year after the war's end, with more massacres and deportations, this time carried out by the Turkish Nationalists who disapproved of the Young Turks but agreed with their philosophy of ethnic purity.

"By 1923, the entire landmass of Asia Minor and historic West Armenia had been expunged of its Armenian population; the destruction of the Armenian communities in this part of the world was total," according to the ANI.

The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted in 1948, and since then most countries where the Armenian survivors and their posterity live officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Turkey, however, denies that any such genocide ever occurred.

The display, which will be shown from April 19 through May 1, is in the Campus Center next to Student Services.

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'Dean'

continued from page 2

son for all his efforts, but also took time to praise the accomplishments of their other two children as well.

"We're proud of all our kids," Ron said. "I look through some of [Mark's] homework and it's not easy stuff. I'm extremely proud."

Dennis Reed, Dean of Academic Affairs, said that members of the faculty should also be lauded on a day like this for making their classes interesting enough to make students forget how hard they're working.

"When I look around this room at these bright faces I know that you will, in fact, liberate," Reed said, referring to a quote from H.G. Wells. "I congratulate you and wish you continued success."

Pat Calder, chair of the Space and Work Committee, got quite a chuckle from the crowd as she recalled how it made her feel when she received her first dean's list award "back in the days of the dinosaur."

"You've done something not only for yourself, not only for your family, but for your teachers as well," Calder said. "You have given back to us, your teachers, something we couldn't get anywhere else. You helped us feel rewarded by helping you."

Anthony Napoli, who returned to college at age 46 to change careers and open up new opportunities for himself, was thrilled by the fact that he was a President's honor scholar.

"I've enjoyed it although it was a challenge, but it's nice to know that all the hard work paid off," said Napoli. "I didn't do it for the pin, though, I did it just for me."

The atmosphere at the event was joyous for the first-timers as well as those who have received awards in the past. Valley music student J. C. Deluna delighted the crowd with his acoustic guitar-playing throughout the event. The buffet was sponsored by the ASU and prepared by the campus cafeteria.

There were 687 full-time students and 1,111 part-time students on the Dean's List and 292 combined students on the Presidents Honor List for the fall 2003 semester.

'ASU'

continued from page 1

wrote Bagramian. "It should be a way and provide means for counselors to help students before they start failing."

Igor Kagan, who has served as the commissioner of political affairs, cited his experience with the council, including being a part of the cafeteria subcommittee that helped get prices lowered.

"I think I'm the best candidate because I have experience, commitment and accountability," Kagan said. "I know how to get things done, who to go to when a student comes to me with a problem. If I have to, I'll go all the way to Sacramento, to the Governor in order to resolve an issue."

Gayane 'Diana' Avakian and Jessie Salas, both high-energy candidates, are in a head-to-head battle for vice president of the ASU.

"My major goal is to complete any unanswered questions you have," said Avakian, who works in the career-counseling center. "I know I can work with the President because of my social skills and I know how to compromise."

Salas said that her goal is to stay in student government and to boost the voice among the students.

"I want to make sure your needs are met," Salas said. "I think the board next year will have the ability to let students know that we're providing so many different avenues for them to explore and expand with. I see the ASU as being the link between the students and the school."

As opposed to last year, when there were not enough candidates to fill all of the available positions, there are 20 candidates running for 11 positions for the fall ASU board. Still, some offices have one-person races.

Shirin Salamat was confident of her victory as the commissioner of campus and environmental concerns since there was no one running against her.

"Next year I'm trying to get a recycling program going," Salamat said. "I'm looking forward to seeing who's going to be representing Valley College."

One of the more competitive races is for commissioner of athletics, between Eduardo Gutierrez, Jason Henderson-Alright and Tara Perry.

Gutierrez expressed his disappointment with the turnout, it was "sad and unacceptable" for a population of nearly 19,000. He also spoke of getting students more involved and adding more events throughout the year.

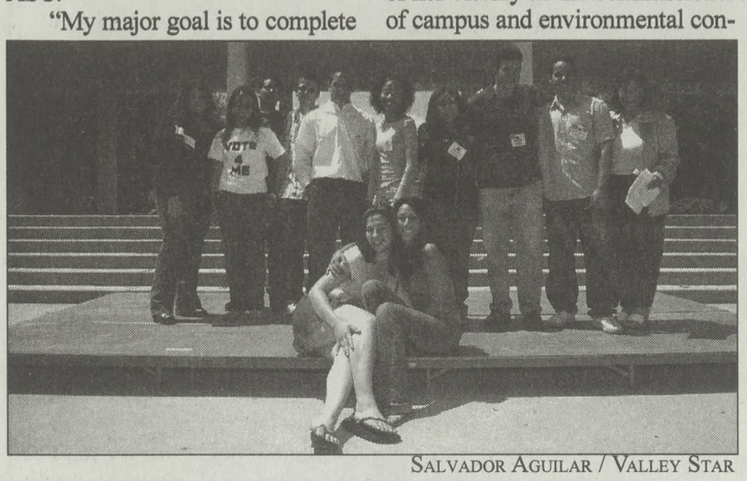
"As athletic director I would hope to reach students and get them involved in school, not just the people in the student government," Gutierrez said. "I'd like to start a tutor program for athletes so that we can get them to the next level and to make students here healthier students."

Henderson-Alright cited his extensive background in playing and coaching various sports in his official statement.

He wrote, "I have the will and desire to do anything and everything that I set my mind to. … I would like to be in charge of keeping all of you students properly updated about up coming sports and activities.

Perry did not submit a written statement and was unavailable for comment.

Voting began Tuesday and concludes today. Polls are open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. today in Monarch Square.



Salvador Aguilar / Valley Star

AND IN THIS CORNER - The 12 ASU governing board candidates who appeared at Monday's forum.

'Websites'

continued from page 1

provides telephone and e-mail contact information for Valley faculty, administrators and services.

There are links on the homepage to other helpful campus websites such as the Writing Center, which recently launched its website.

"Students [are] able to learn on their own, outside of the classroom," said Shira Brown, tutor coordinator at the Writing Center, of the new website.

Brown said that the website is convenient for students who are writing a last-minute paper and need help. "If a student can't come [in], a student can e-mail their work [to a tutor] for help," said Brown.

In addition to e-mailing a tutor, students can get tips on the writing process, paragraph development and MLA format, which is the standard that most English teachers require for papers.

Another link on Valley's homepage that has tips for writing is the LAVC Library site, which gives instruction on researching, writing a paper and using citation.

Library Technician David Crandall said that the LAVC Library website is a convenient resource for busy students. "A student can go to the website before taking time to come into the library," said Crandall.

The library's website has an online catalog where a student can search for a book by author, title, or subject. The website also has listings of local events, government and social services and cultural services, in addition to links to local museums, zoos and special events, such as the Getty Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Museum of Contemporary Art.

If accessing the library site on campus, students can also use the famed news media search engine, LexisNexis (academic version). A powerful research tool, LexisNexis is usually an expensive subscription-only service but is free to Valley students using campus computers.

Another useful website for students is the campus bookstore homepage, www.lavcbookstore.com. An alternative to standing in line at the bookstore, the site allows students to purchase new and used books as well as merchandise, supplies and Valley paraphernalia.

Students can also get a jump start on their reading before the semester starts. By typing in the four-digit class section number, a student can see what the instructor has reported the required texts to be. Getting a head start on acquiring textbooks can often lead to big savings if you can get the proper editions online or at used textbook stores (including the Valley bookstore). Caveat emptor, however: It is always recommended that you confer with the instructor before actually purchasing a book.

The Valley Star website, www.lavalleystar.com, has all the stories and features of the newspaper's printed edition plus extended versions of some pieces with extra photos and bonus articles for online viewing only.

A new feature on The Star's website is "The Back Page," a bi-weekly collection of literary journalism. Almost all Back Page pieces are online exclusives.

The site also has local weather, updated movie showtimes and locations and daily horoscopes, a scholarship search, chat rooms, forums and polls. Another feature is periodic contests, such as February's Oscar contest, where participants guessed the winners of the Academy Awards with an Oscar-winning DVD the prize.

Meanwhile, the involvement of today's youth with the Internet has developed interest and participation in U.S. politics and community affairs, according to a recently released report by American University's Center for Social Media.

"What this study reveals is that young people also use the Internet for civic and political engagement," explained the study's principal author, Kathryn C. Montgomery, Ph.D., professor in American University's School of Communication and co-director of the Center for Social Media, in a press release. "They go online to register to vote and to volunteer; some of them are also writing about world events, launching projects for community improvement, and learning skills for political action."

"Cyberactivism" is among the many forms of community activism promoted online. It permits young people across the country to coordinate political actions from sit-ins to walk-outs. Activists in groups like U.S. Students Against Sweatshops use the Internet to strategize with allies, provide e-mail newsletters and action alerts, share downloadable training manuals, print and distribute posters and bumper stickers, and provide prewritten press releases and press kits to local chapters.

At Valley's Associated Student Union's website, www.hellodaly.com, students can access information for events scheduled on campus and off, such as rallies, marches and other ways for students to get involved. In March, the ASU organized a group of students to attend the "March in March" to express concerns to legislature. Students can also sign up for various clubs on campus through the ASU website.

Internet-Based Community College Registration System Wins Award

■ Chancellor's office and Foundation for Community Colleges give Technology Focus Award for 2003 to Xap Corporation and the CCCApply Project Team.

By Susan Maltby
Staff Writer

Xap Corporation and the CCCApply Project Team earned the Technology 2003 Focus Award in February for the statewide, web-based admission application system that simplifies the enrollment process for California's 2.9 million community college students.

The award, given by the California Community Colleges' Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges commends strategic, integrated use of technology to empower faculty through sources within reach of all campus constituents - and often the wider community.

The award-winning project streamlines the admissions process for 108 colleges with the CCCApply site: www.cccapply.org. The website allows students to enter their personal information one time and apply to any of the participating colleges.

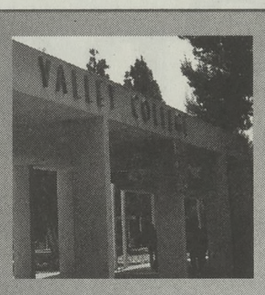
Students can also access key facts about their college, use search tools to find a college that meets their needs and interests, take a virtual tour of a campus, obtain contact information and send e-mail communication, research financial aid, and more.

Computer science major Sheri Clarke-Miller, 40, used the system when applying for college. When asked whether the program is worthy of award-winning status Clarke-Miller replied, "I don't know about that, but it was definitely easy to access and find the information I needed to apply and register for this college and West Los Angeles College."

She saw Valley's system as being on the cutting edge of technology and said, "Keep up the good work!"

In a February press release, Xap President and CEO Allen Firstenberg said he was thankful for what his company has learned by providing helpful websites for all students, especially those with disabilities.

"Xap's mission, together with the California community colleges' staff, is to continually look for ways to enhance CCCApply to better serve its students," said Firstenberg.



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SPORTS

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LAVC SCORES

Baseball @ Glendale
(L 6-7, 12 innings) 4/17/04
Baseball Record: 1-28, 1-16
Softball vs. Bakersfield
(L 1-5) 4/15/04
Softball Record: 13-22, 10-11

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 4/21/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 4/22/04
Baseball @ Pierce 2:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Glendale 2:30 p.m.*^
Friday 4/23/04
WSC Swim Championship TBA
Saturday 4/24/04
WSC Swim Championship TBA
Track & Field @ WSC Finals TBA
Baseball vs. Citrus 1 p.m.
Sunday 4/25/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 4/26/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 4/27/04
Softball BYE
Baseball @ Citrus 1 p.m.
Wednesday 4/28/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 4/29/04
Baseball vs. Canyons 2:30 p.m.^
Friday 4/30/04
State Swim Championship TBA
Saturday 5/1/04
State Swim Championship TBA
Track & Field @ So. Cal. Prelims TBA
Baseball @ Canyons 1 p.m.
Sunday 5/2/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 5/3/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 5/4/04
No Scheduled Games
Wednesday 5/5/04
No Scheduled Games
^ Final Regular Season Home Game
* WSC Gold Division

PRO SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS
Western Conf. - Round 1
(2) L.A. Lakers vs. (7) Hos. Rockets
(W 98-84) 4/19/04
Kobe Bryant: 36 pts, 16-17 ft, 4 ast
Karl Malone: 17 pts, 8 rb, 4 ast
Derek Fisher: 11 pts, 3 rb, 2-2 3pt
Series Record: LAL leads 2-0
Next Game: Friday @ Houston, ESPN 6: 30 p.m.
(3) S.A. Spurs vs. (6) Mem. Grizzlies
(W 87-70) 4/19/04
SAS - Tim Duncan: 23 pts, 12 rb, 5 blk
SAS - Tony Parker: 27 pts, 7 ast, 4-6 3pt
MEM - Pau Gasol: 20 pts, 11 pts, 6-8 ft
Series Record: SAS leads 2-0
Next Game: Thursday @ Memphis, TNT 6: 30 p.m.
(1) Mn. T'Wolves vs. (8) Den. Nuggets
(W 106-92) 4/18/04
MIN - Kevin Garnett: 30 pts, 20 rb, 4 ast
MIN - Sam Cassell: 40 pts, 5-6 3pt
DEN - Carmelo Anthony: 19 pts, 6 rb
Series Record: MIN leads 1-0
Next Game: Wednesday @ Minnesota, TNT 6: 30 p.m.
(4) Sac. Kings vs. (5) Dal. Mavericks
(W 116-105) 4/18/04
SAC - Peja Stojakovic: 28 pts, 8 rb, 5-10 3pt
SAC - Chris Webber: 26 pts, 12 rb, 2 blk
DAL - Dir Nowitzki: 32 pts, 13 rb, 4-6 3pt
Series Record: SAC leads 1-0
Next Game: Saturday @ Dallas, ESPN 7 p.m.
Eastern Conf. - Round 1
(1) Ind. Pacers vs. (8) Bos. Celtics
(W 104-88) 4/17/04
IND - Ron Artest: 24 pts, 6 rb, 5 ast
IND - Jermaine O'Neal: 24 pts, 11 rb, 3 blk
BOS - Paul Pierce: 20 pts, 4 rb, 4 ast
Series Record: IND leads 1-0
Next Game: Friday @ Boston, ESPN 4 p.m.
(3) Det. Pistons vs. (6) Mil. Bucks
(W 108-82) 4/19/04
DET - Richard Hamilton: 21 pts, 8 ast, 4 stl
DET - Ben Wallace: 17 pts, 14 rb, 3 stl
MIL - Desmond Mason: 16 pts, 3 rb, 1 blk
Series Record: DET leads 1-0
Next Game: Wednesday @ Detroit, TNT 4 p.m.
(4) Mia. Heat vs. (5) N.O. Hornets
(W 81-79) 4/19/04
MIA - Dwayne Wade: 21 pts, 5 rb, 5 ast
MIA - Lamar Odom: 17 pts, 11 rb, 1 blk
NOH - Baron Davis: 17 pts, 4 rb, 4 blk
Series Record: MIA leads 1-0
Next Game: Wednesday @ Miami, NBA TV 5 p.m.
(2) N.J. Nets vs. (7) N.Y. Knicks
(W 107-83) 4/18/04
NJN - Richard Jefferson: 21 pts, 5 rb, 5 ast
NJN - Kerry Kittles: 20 pts, 4 rb, 4 ast
NYK - Anfernee Hardaway: 18 pts, 3 ast, 2 stl
Series Record: NJN leads 1-0
Next Game: Thursday @ New York, TNT 6: 30 p.m.

NOTES

NBA
The league named Cleveland Cavaliers guard LeBron James Rookie of the Year Tuesday. James earned the nod by gaining 78 of 118 first-place votes.

NBA
The defense team of former New Jersey Nets star Jayson Williams rested its case Tuesday in the former forward's manslaughter trial.

MLB
New York Knicks forward Tim Thomas did not appear in Game 2 of the opening round of the playoffs against the New Jersey Nets due to ankle and back injuries.

MLB
The Chicago White Sox put shortstop Jose Valentin on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday. Valentin sustained a hamstring injury in a game against the Toronto Blue Jays.

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE - SOFTBALL

Lady Monarchs See Hope In Loss

■ Out of playoff contention, Valley looks to next year.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After seeing their postseason hopes swept away in convincing fashion at conference rival College of the Canyons Tuesday, the Lady Monarchs (13-22, 10-11 in conference) were looking for a sign – any sign – that they had the character to rebound. Strangely, they may have found one in a 5-1 loss to conference powerhouse Bakersfield (27-7, 16-3) at Valley on Thursday.

"We played a lot better today," said Valley coach Frankie Garcia. "We turned four double plays against this team. They're gonna be number one or two in the conference and we played 'em well."

The loss, the latest in an eight-game slide (four in conference) that included blowouts in Tuesday's doubleheader nightmare at Canyons by scores of 19-1 and 9-0, at least featured sharp defense. Except, that is, for a two-error breakdown in the third inning that cost the Lady Monarchs and starting pitcher Amanda Salazar three unearned runs.

Three of Valley's double plays were started by Christie Sotelo, who continues to show outstanding range and hands at shortstop. Third baseman Deyssy Esquivel started the other after a juggling catch of a line drive followed by a snap throw to first. Each of the twin killings bailed Salazar out of tight spots, including a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the seventh.

Except for the decisive third inning, Salazar managed to dance out of trouble most of the day. She gave up 11 hits, two walks and two wild pitches, but only two earned runs (all statistics unofficial). Her Bakersfield counterpart, however, was dominant.

Starting pitcher Ashley Bailey handcuffed the Lady Monarchs to the tune of one earned run on seven hits and six overpowering strikeouts in a sparkling complete game effort. Offensively, Bakersfield second baseman Keeley Johnson delivered the key blow, a two-out, two-run double in the third. An insurance run was added in the fourth courtesy of Bailey's outstanding speed. Bakersfield's pitcher and leadoff hitter reached on an infield single, stole second and scored on a short single by third baseman Jackie Pilatti.

After the game, the upbeat Garcia managed to find a silver lining to the cloud growing over the Lady Monarchs' season. Apart from the spirited effort following Tuesday's pair of losses, she cited the fact that the team played Bakersfield tough despite essentially having only eight players with Valley speedster Alma Palacios severely limited by persistent back pain but gamely holding down right field.

"[Palacios] is out there because we need her," added catcher Lorena Arreguin, "If she had a choice, she wouldn't be."

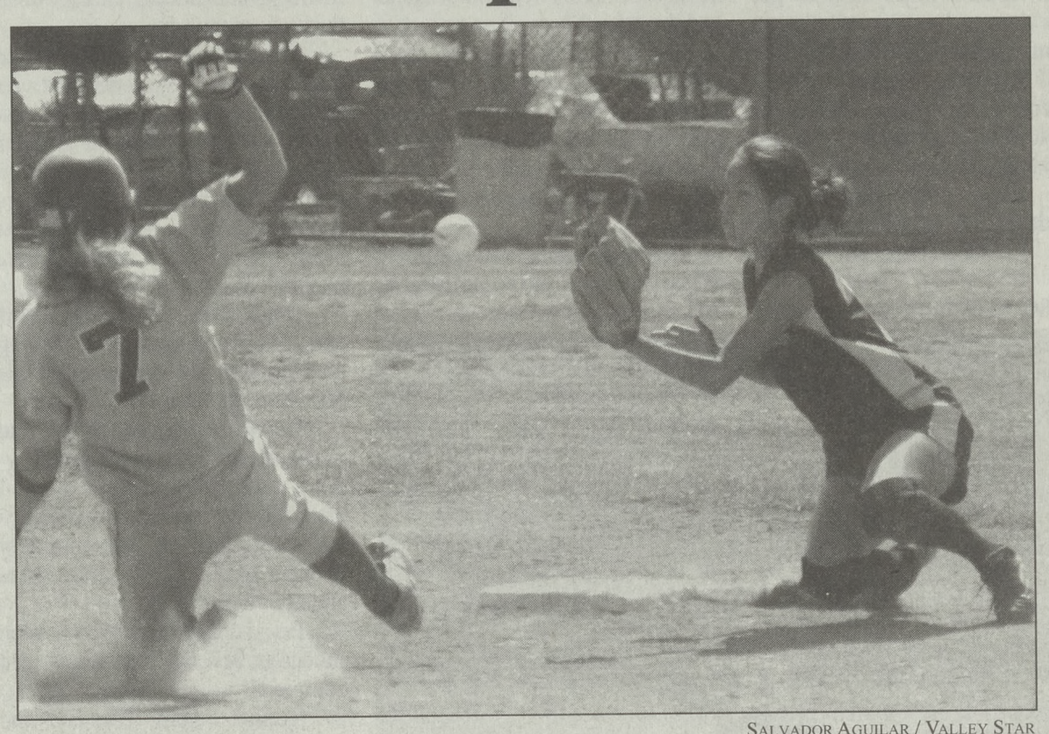
Arreguin, who is currently batting .500, said that Palacios' gutty play notwithstanding, attrition had really hurt the team this season. "That's what we need, people who are committed, who want to be here."

"This was a bounce-back game," said Garcia. "We needed it because we've got Mission next week. We're [out of playoff contention], but we're looking forward to next year. We've got some good recruits, and six of our players are returning."

Of Valley's current nine-woman roster, only Sotelo, solid-fielding second baseman Janelle Mendez and outfielder/pitcher Heather Bates, who has a knack for playing big in conference home games, are not coming back next year. Sotelo will be particularly missed, and not just for her fielding. The shortstop/pitcher is currently batting .421 (good for sixth in the conference) and is first or second on the team in nearly every offensive category.

The Lady Monarchs hope to give them a grand sendoff against Glendale in the season's wrap-up game next Thursday. First, though, they'll have to settle some unfinished business at Mission in a Tuesday double header. The two schools have had an unusual number of players transfer between the teams, proving that familiarity breeds contempt.

"[People] should come out to watch us play against Mission," said Arreguin. "It'll be personal."



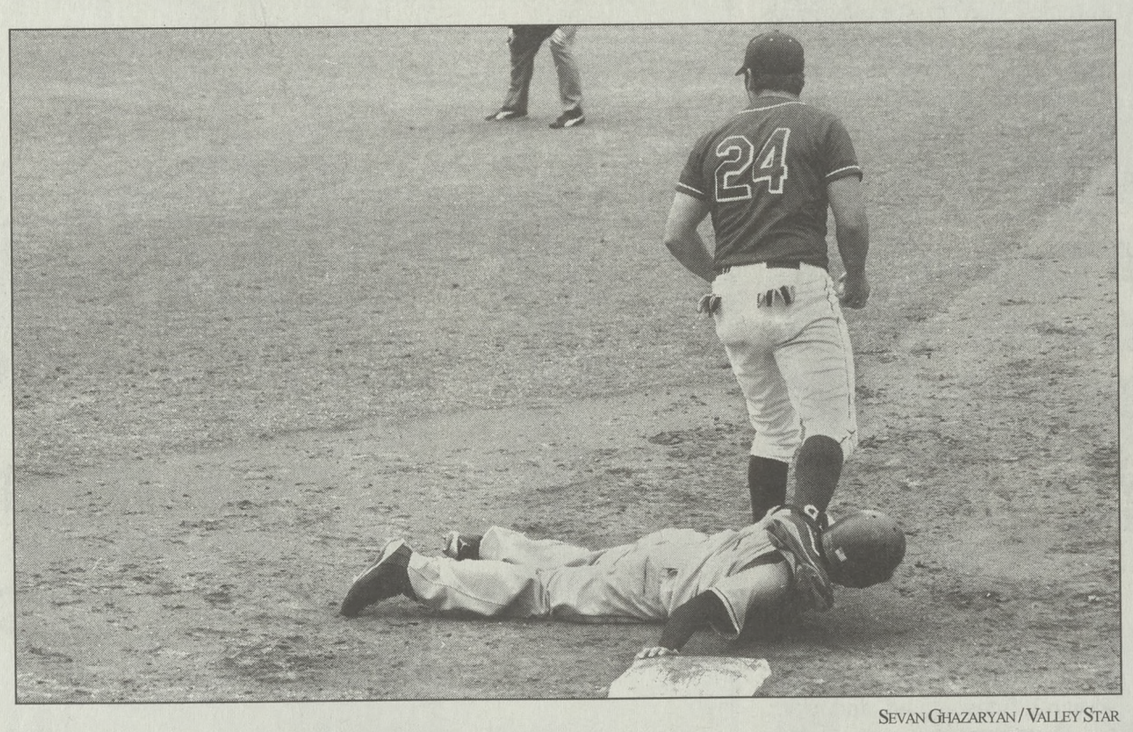
SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

A FOOTHOLD - Shortstop Christie Sotelo is waitng for the ball as the player from Bakersfield slides into second and is called safe. The Renegades stopped Valley 5-1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
BAKERSFIELD	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
L.A. VALLEY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

WSC BASEBALL

Monarchs' Frustration Boils Over



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

WALKING OVER THE MONARCHS - Valley infielder Abel Pulido, floor, tries to hang in there after continuous pickoff attempts.

■ Team loses composure, lead and game.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College baseball team (1-28) blew a two-run lead in the ninth inning and lost to the Glendale Vaqueros (11-18) in 12, 7-6, on a Saturday afternoon in which two Monarchs were ejected and Head Coach Chris Johnson blasted the team after the game.

"We should have won this game by 10 runs," yelled Johnson at his beleaguered squad. "You guys put yourselves in a good position to win today, and blew it again."

"It sucks when you're on the losing end…and you can't do [anything] about it," said shortstop Abel Pulido, 1-4 with two walks. "We had opportunities all game today, and we failed to do anything with them."

Jumping on Vaquero starting pitcher Blake Gailen early, the Monarchs sent eight men to the plate in the opening frame and scored twice on hits from catcher Jordan Wolff and shortstop Rick Hooper.

Things grew heated in the second inning as Valley pitcher Jorge Olmedo (5 innings, three runs) threw close to Vaquero catcher A.J. Anthony's head and smiled as the home plate umpire issued a warning.

Valley received numerous warnings throughout the game as Monarch players and coaches made comments to Vaquero players and both the umpires. The Vaqueros reacted to the comments by simply laughing and cheering harder during the game.

As both dugouts engaged in a shouting match, Valley reliever Jose Avila was thrown out of the game in the second inning for calling a Vaquero player "a rabbit" and yelling at Vaquero players throughout the game.

"I'm pretty upset … because it's a close game. I was successful last outing against them, and I think I would have made a difference," said a contrite Avila after the game.

The Monarchs never regained their composure, even tearing into each other during the game. Center fielder Alex Miranda was verbally lashed by teammates after he was caught in two different rundowns.

"Guys on the team are in their own little worlds … they don't want to get with the team," said the disgusted Pulido. "Some things have to be said in order to get the team together."

Despite the infighting, Valley went into the ninth holding a two-run lead and hoping for their second win in 29 tries this year. But reliever Phil Rivers surrendered a home run to Vaquero third baseman Daniel Lee and then gave up the tying run when designated hitter Bill Spottiswood doubled in left fielder Gabe Gonzalez.

The Vaqueros put the game away in the bottom of the twelfth as pitcher Andy Bunning gave up a bases-loaded single to Lee that allowed Gonzalez to score the winning run on as Wolff's foot was off the plate when he received the relay from third baseman Tyler Slifer.

"Everyone is just frustrated," said a tired Amador Galvez. "We're not doing anything to help ourselves to help ourselves out."

Monarch Sister Act

[*Sisters*] from page 1

spots every week for coach Frankie Garcia's improving team. Arreguin leads the team in hits, triples, batting average (.500, third in the conference), on-base percentage and slugging percentage and they share the team lead in doubles. Velasquez is no slouch, batting .357 (15th in the conference) and ranking second or third on the team in most categories, including homers and RBIs. And they each still have a year of eligibility at Valley.

"They're coming back, how's that for excitement?" says Garcia. "They're going to be our impact players next year."

It's hard to tell who is more pleased about the return of the "sisters," Valley softball boosters or the rest of the team. Garcia calls them both extremely hard-working and respected players who are key to the squad's chemistry.

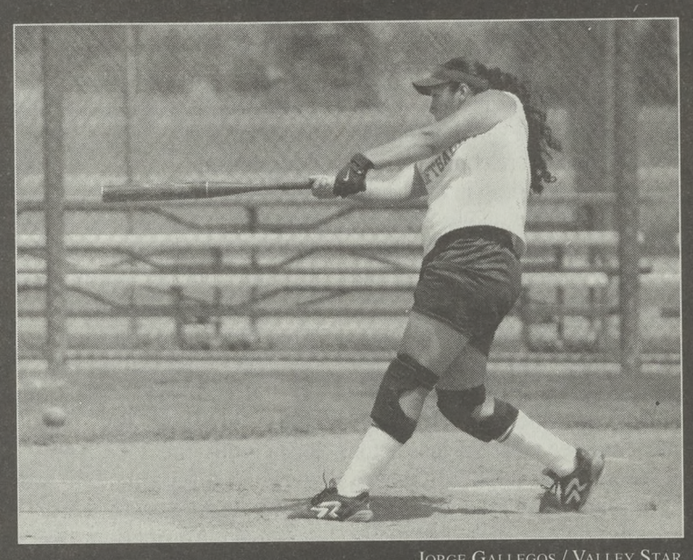
"It's a tremendous asset to have [two of your best players] care for each other so much," she says. "All of it benefits us. Alex brings a sense of calmness; nothing rattles her. She's always steady, which I love in a player.

"Lorena is one of the hardest-working kids I've ever seen. She's a powerhouse – her size can be intimidating, but [off the field] she's a teddy bear, and she's getting it done in the classroom too."

"I look up to [Alex]," the 5-foot-8 Arreguin says slyly of her older sister-in-law, "she's an inch taller."

Apart from their love of the sport, the sisters have something else in common: They're both children of divorce.

continued on *Sisters* page 9



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

SWINGER - Monarch catcher Lorena Arreguin takes a crack at a ball during batting practice at Valley College.

SPORTS

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Swingin' Monarchs

[*Sisters*, from page 8]

The sunny Arreguin says she doesn't even remember a time when her parents were together and that her father, with whom she lives, has always been extremely supportive of her sporting endeavors. "[Dad] was always there whenever he could be," she says. "We moved around the Valley a lot."

Arreguin's mother, Alisa Aldaz, who calls both players her "girls," shows up to Valley games when she can.

"I wanted [Lorena] to do ballet, but that wasn't going to work," she says. But then she adds that it has all worked out for the best. "Softball has meant everything to her, to her independence, her perseverance, her studies – being around the other girls, being part of the team. And it kept her on her toes about perfect attendance [in school].

"I don't know what I would have done without her being so focused. If she wasn't studying, she was practicing. It was just the best thing for all of us."

It hasn't been an entirely easy ride for Arreguin, who has been a catcher since she started in the sport. By the time she was 16, the endless throws that position requires had worn out her arm and she required surgery.

"She was supposed to go to physical therapy twice a week," says Aldaz, "but she went four times a week. She's just so dedicated."

Velasquez, though, darkens a little when discussing her childhood, which she describes as "difficult."

"I've had a couple of social workers in my life," she says. "My mom is a single parent with five kids; she really struggled. She's strong within."

Noting that she is studying sociology, Velasquez adds, "I want to be a social worker. I don't know what kind yet, but I want to be one."

Softball has been a positive force in her life from the age of 13. Today, the former elementary school playground coach exudes the warmth and calm that her coach and teammates say define her.

"Alex always tries to keep a smile on her face," Arreguin says. "She picks you up when you're down."

Velasquez more than returns the compliment, citing Arreguin's depth and breadth of knowledge of softball. "Lorena loves the sport, she lives it. She's a great player."

Star shortstop Christie Sotelo, who has known Arreguin since they were 8, agrees. "She's such a hard worker, always trying to improve her game. And she's always trying to pick up her team."

Arreguin has been playing since she was 8, and like Velasquez hopes to matriculate to a four-year school to continue her athletic pursuits.

"[Whatever school] wants me," laughs Arreguin. "First come, first serve."

However, although she is racking up credits fast enough to finish up at Valley by fall if she wanted, she hasn't yet found a major.

"I'm taking a lot of everything to see what I like," she says. "I wanted to try being a physical therapist, but I didn't like taking biology. So there goes that!"

The two players laugh, and it continues as they talk over each other to describe how they met. When then-21-year-old Velasquez started dating Hernandez, the then-15-year-old Arreguin frequently tagged along.

"I didn't know if she minded or not …," says Arreguin.

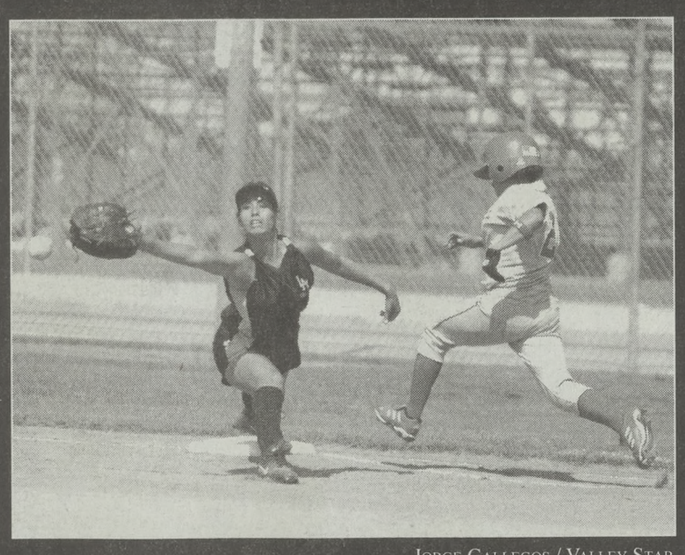
"She knows I didn't …," says Velasquez.

"But my brother didn't, so if she did, oh well …," interjects Arreguin.

"She always made me laugh," says Velasquez. "She's such a little smartass."

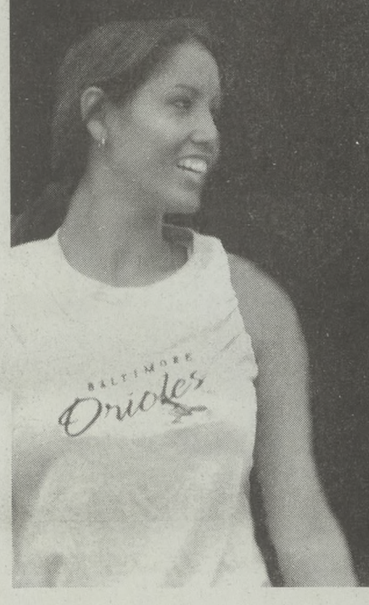
The softball sisters rock back and forth fondly as they giggle, Arreguin sporting an impish grin. Noting that Velasquez met Hernandez when the two played in a co-ed game, Arreguin says, "I guess softball brought us all together."

For one more season, Valley fans can enjoy that fact.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

WHAT A STRETCH - Monarch firstbaseman Alexandra Velasquez reaches for the ball in an attempt to beat the Bakersfield runner.



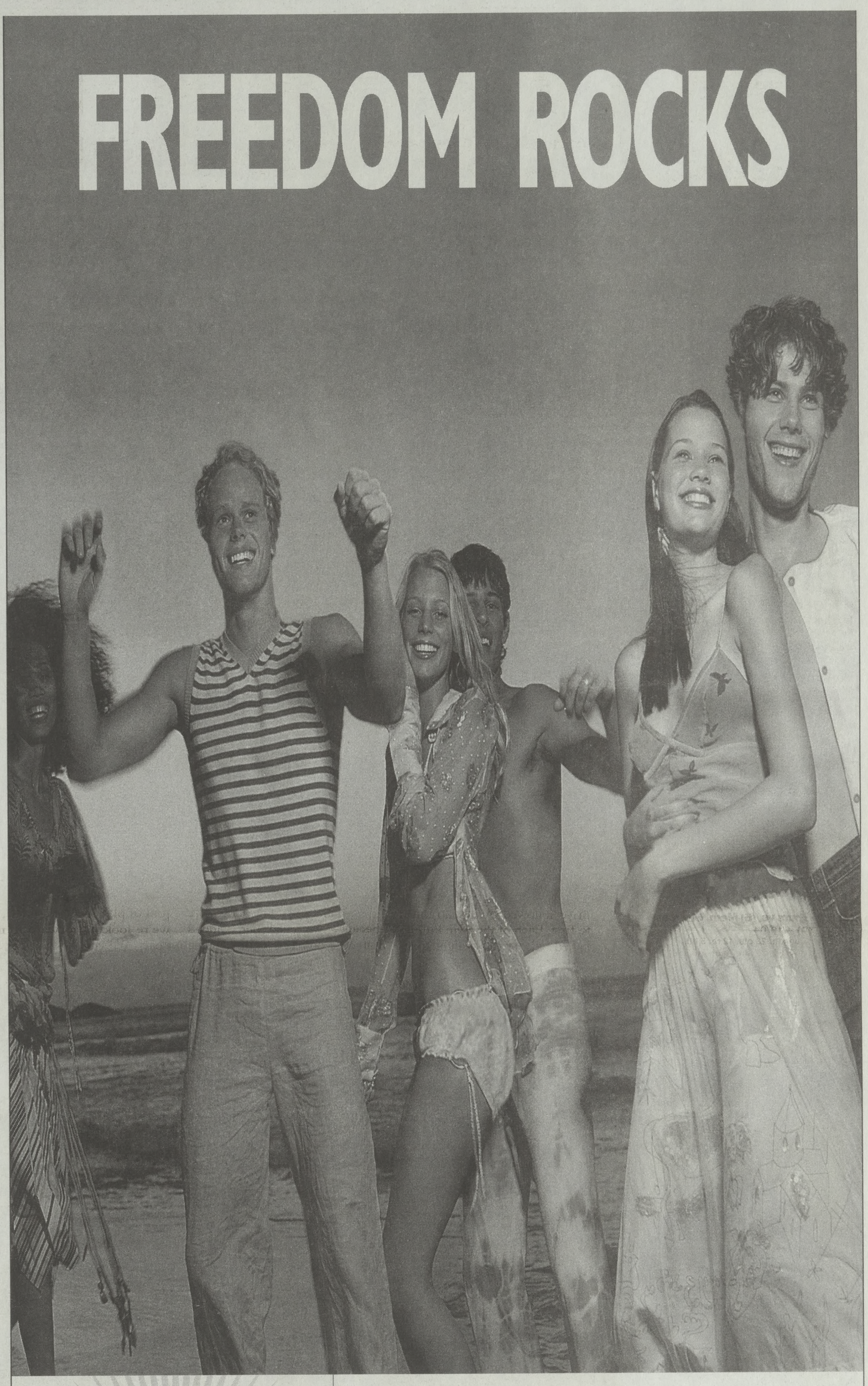
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"[Lorena is] my little sister. We're very close."

Alexandra Velasquez,
Monarch Softball Firstbaseman, on her relationship with her sister-in-law and teammate Lorena Arrequin.

Photo by Jorge Gallegos

FREEDOM ROCKS



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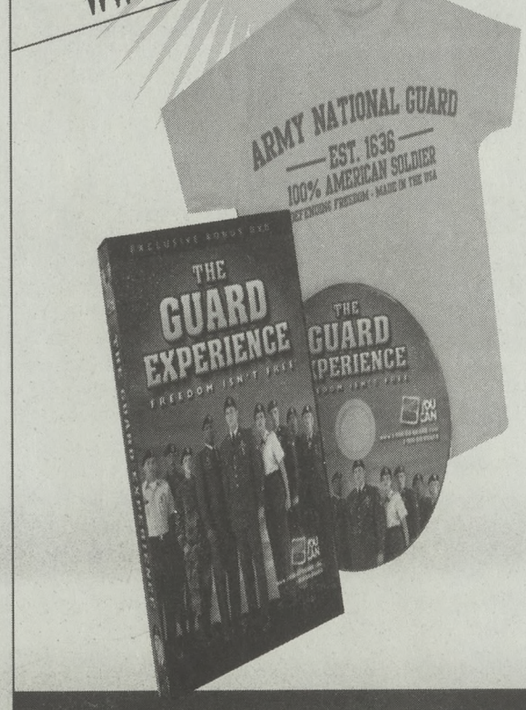

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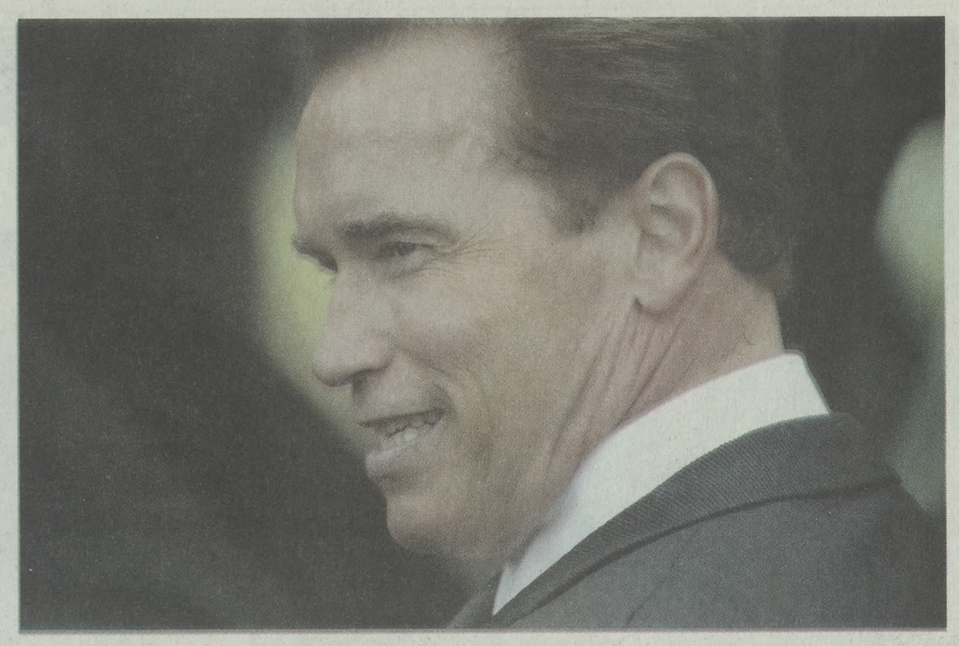

SALVADOR AGUILAR
PHOTOS

MICHAEL ORDOÑA
TEXT

GABY ALONSO AND BOB TEICHMANN
LAYOUT

NEARLY 3,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION IN PAN PACIFIC PARK ON SUNDAY (SEE STORY, PAGE 1). THE DAY MARKED THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAZI INVASION OF HUNGARY.

AMONG THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, LOS ANGELES MAYOR JAMES HAHN AND CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS, D-CA. LANTOS, THE ONLY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TO SERVE IN CONGRESS, WAS A MEMBER OF THE ANTI-NAZI UNDERGROUND IN HIS NATIVE HUNGARY.

THE DAY WAS NOT ENTIRELY SOLEMN, HOWEVER, AS CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SANG FOR THE CROWD.

SIXTY YEARS LATER